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Dublin welcomes move towards 'agreed elections': Belfast rally shows IRA its anger

# Major keeps hopes for peace alive

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR promised the country and Parliament last night to keep the search for a Northern Ireland peace settlement alive in the face of the "evil" Docklands bombing and the end of the IRA ceasefire.

He left open the door to Sinn Fein to be readmitted to the process if the ceasefire is restored and moved to repair relations with the Irish Government by making plain that he was not wedded to the idea of elections as the only route to all-party talks.

In remarks welcomed in Dublin and by nationalist politicians the Prime Minister declared that, although he still believed elections were the most promising way forward, his mind was not closed to other options. He insisted that all the Government's actions—including the elections proposal—were designed to lead directly to speedy negotiations between the parties, an emphasis that also pleased Irish ministers and led them to drop their outright opposition to the elections idea.

Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, said he had been encouraged by Mr Major's comments. "We were reassured by his very clear and direct and speedy link between possible elections and negotiations. That is direction the Irish Government has been pursuing."

Mr Spring added that Dublin still had many questions about elections. But he significantly softened his opposition to Mr Major's plan when he

### Mitchell's talks plea to Trimble

Senator George Mitchell, who produced last month's report on the Northern Ireland negotiations, last night begged David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, to help to salvage the peace process.

At a meeting in Washington Mr Mitchell pressed Mr Trimble to keep searching for a way to convene all-party talks. Mr Trimble was also due to meet President Clinton at the White House.

said: "We all know that imposed elections will not work. What we need are agreed elections."

The conciliatory attitudes being adopted in London and Dublin are likely to pave the way to a summit as early as next week between Mr Major and the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, to keep the peace effort on track. It will take place in London—in defiance of the bombers.

A subdued and restrained House of Commons had earlier strongly backed Mr Major as he declared that, although the peace process had suffered a setback from the men of violence, it was not over.

He said: "We are not at the end of the road for peace. If we are pushed back, we will start again. If we are pushed back again, we will start again. If we are pushed back a third

time, we will start again. There can be no end to this search for a permanent settlement in Northern Ireland until we have achieved a permanent settlement in Northern Ireland... we may have to take more risks. We will not take reckless risks. But if we see a risk that we believe is appropriate in the cause of peace, then we will take it and seek the support of this House for doing so."

Although he confirmed that contacts between Sinn Fein and ministers had been cut off after the renewal of violence, Mr Major surprised MPs by the lengths to which he went to offer them a way back if the ceasefire was restored.

Senior ministers admitted yesterday that they did not know whether Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, was privy to the IRA's decision to restart their campaign.

The doubts, which intelligence sources have so far been unable to clear up, were reflected in Mr Major's statement that a huge question mark now hung over Sinn Fein and they must decide "whether they are a front for the IRA or a democratic political party committed to the ballot not the bullet".

He declared it was for them to show through words and actions whether they had a part to play. Mr Major insisted.

Confirmed on page 2, col 5.

Matthew Parris, page 2  
Major's speech, page 6  
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Part of the crowd of 3,000 outside Belfast City Hall yesterday. The rally began with a minute's silence for the victims of Friday's bombing

## 'We felt a need to come here again'

By NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of people joined a peace rally in the centre of Belfast yesterday to register their anger with the IRA for threatening 18 months of peace in Northern Ireland.

Parents with young children joined office workers outside Belfast City Hall at the same spot where tens of thousands of people cheered on President Clinton just over two months ago.

The rally started off with a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the Docklands bomb attack. Hundreds of

people in the crowd of more than 3,000 people held up paper doves, reviving memories of the rallies that were held at the height of the Troubles.

Women for Peace, who organised the rally, said they were encouraged by the turnout. Anne Carr said: "The last time we were outside the City Hall was just before the IRA ceasefire. I hoped and prayed that we would never be here again. But after the bombing we felt a need to come here again."

Olive McAlea, a pensioner who came to the rally with her sister, Bridget McCann, said she was devastated by the IRA bomb. She said:

"Turning out at the rally is our small way of telling the paramilitaries that we want peace, especially for the children. God seems to be with us today because the sun is shining."

Her comments were echoed by Charlie Butler, who lost three relatives in the IRA bomb attack on the Shankill Road in October 1993. He said he took heart from the thousands of people who turned out. "If this many people across the divide can come together why can't our politicians?"

□ The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, last night urged the Church to redouble its efforts to help

achieve a peace settlement in Ireland. Dr Carey, addressing the General Synod of the Church of England, said that the bomb was a tragedy "both in terms of the injuries and loss of life and of the blow it represents to the search for peace".

He said: "At such moments the role of the church is this: to redouble its efforts to help achieve a peace settlement and to continue to support all those, not least politicians of different traditions, who still thrive for a peaceful resolution of the conflict."

The Synod unanimously expressed "deep dismay" at the terrorist attack.



## NHS ready to pay £10,000 for surrogate pregnancy

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Health Service is negotiating to pay for a surrogate mother to have a baby for a childless couple at a cost likely to exceed £10,000.

A district health authority is in talks with the Assisted Conception Unit at King's College, London, to make the arrangement, for a woman who has lost her uterus. It is believed to be the first NHS surrogacy. Many health authorities refuse to pay even for in-vitro fertilisation.

The news came as the British Medical Association, which used to advise doctors to have nothing to do with surrogacy, issued ethical guidelines which acknowledged the growing public acceptance of the practice. Dr Peter Fisher, head of the BMA's ethics committee, said: "This is still a technique that

can be very helpful to some couples." John Parsons, head of the King's College unit, said it was right for the NHS to pay for surrogacy as a last-resort treatment. The district health authority, from the south of England, would need to pay for psychological assessments, the collection of eggs, the in-vitro fertilisation, monitoring, counselling and insurance for the surrogate mother.

The NHS would be expected to pay the surrogate's expenses, usually between £7,000 and £10,000. Mr Parsons declined to say which health authority was involved but confirmed it was a "full" surrogacy, using the egg and sperm of the couple to create an embryo to be implanted in a surrogate's womb.

"Partial" surrogacies are usually do-it-yourself arrangements where the surrogate uses sperm from the prospective father. The BMA estimates that there are fewer than 100 cases of surrogacy each year but believes the numbers are growing.

A small study of surrogate mothers had shown that 75 per cent reported depression.

"Whilst surrogate mothers appear to be more detached from their foetus than is usual, they may come to love the baby by the ninth month," says a report published yesterday. "Even if she does relinquish the child, feelings of pain, anger and guilt might persist for a very long time, and be coupled with fears that the child was not being properly loved and cared for."

Body and Mind, page 12

## Wakeham called in over tunnel debts

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A FRENCH court has appointed Lord Wakeham, the former Cabinet minister, as a mediator in the dispute between Eurotunnel and the Z25 tolls to which it owes more than £8 million.

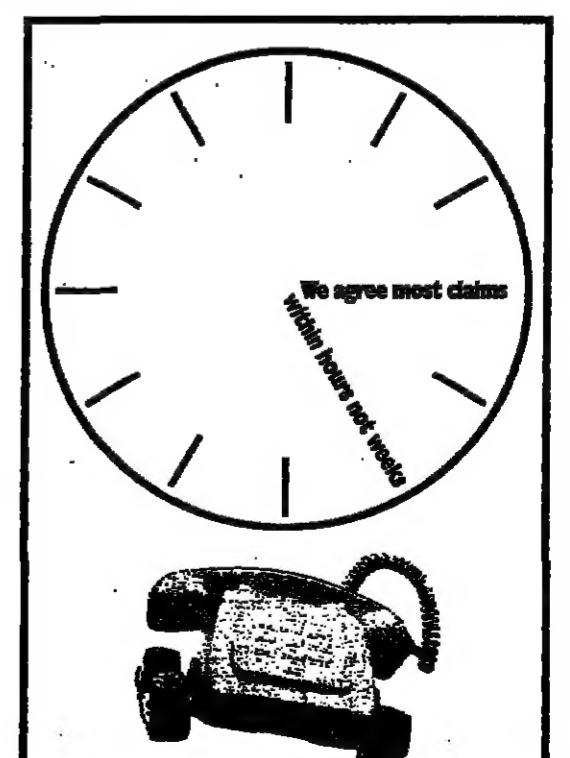
With Robert Badinter, a former French minister of justice, he will try to find a deal that will save the company from financial collapse. The two men were appointed under a French procedure designed to protect employees when a company is deemed close to insolvency.

Eurotunnel has already stopped paying interest on its borrowings and could be forced into receivership by March next year, if it fails to agree a financial restructuring by then. The mediators will interview representatives of all those with a financial interest in Eurotunnel's survival, including shareholders, bankers, management and staff. It is likely to report in the summer, but cannot force an agreement on the company.

Sir Alastair Morton, the British chairman of Eurotunnel, insisted last night that the appointments by the Paris-based Tribunal de Commerce were a "positive development" that could break the logjam in the talks. He said: "In no sense is this a stage of insolvency. It is a court procedure that is pursuing an agreed reorganisation. This is the friendly route."

He said there was "no threat" to travel concessions enjoyed by shareholders. "Of the 420,000 shareholders who have them, over 300,000 expire in November. They must use them before then."

Vital talks, page 23



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## After the shattering blast, a quiet unity

Since the Northern Ireland peace process began it has become commonplace to remark on the change in attitude there. If John Major can take any credit for this he can take credit, too, for a change that has been less noticed. There has been a transformation of MPs' approach in the Commons where Ireland is concerned.

In their place we heard from every side the sort of careful and informed reaction one might expect from an assembly composed entirely of junior ministers. MPs seemed genuinely to be trying to be calm in the situation. It was most unusual.

The Prime Minister is at his best when guiding the Commons through danger. Never a great rouser for the attack, he rallies for defence with skill. Speaking with quiet informality he reminded the House both of the perils but also of

and sabre-rattling, once characteristic of Tory backbench reaction. Gone was the naive sympathy with which many Labour MPs used to swallow nationalist propaganda.

In an impromptu remark to Robert McCartney, the North Down MP, Mr Major said: "In our fight we can only go for victory, in circumstances such as [these] I think there will be areas where people will have to look and see whether the ends justify the means." Not, perhaps, a

ringing phrase — certainly we cannot imagine hearing it from his predecessor — but a telling one; and not a bad summary of an *ism* whose clarity and point emerges as we get to know Major better.

The whole House responded to it. Instead of the usual cacophony, each succeeding voice chimed in as though part of some choral arrangement a stylised cantata composed and arranged to celebrate the virtues of caution. Tony Blair led off: a confident and supportive tenor; Tom King (a former

Northern Ireland Secretary) wished the PM well. Mr Major thanked both.

For the Unionists, John D. Taylor (UUP, Strangford) was flexible. Mr Major was attentive. The Rev Ian Paisley (DUP, Antrim North) rumbled but, helpfully, failed to erupt. Major thanked him. To a buzz of interest, the SDLP's John Hume buried his anger and proposed a preparatory referendum. Major promised to consider it.

Paddy Ashdown had a slight quibble. Major overlooked it. Peter Shore urged him forward. Major was obliged. Labour's Bridget Prentice (Lewisham East) and Mildred Gordon (Bow and Poplar) offered soprano and

contralto tributes. Major received them. Michael Mates (C. East Hampshire, and a former Northern Ireland minister) was interesting. Major was interested. Clive Soley (Lab, Hammersmith) volunteered a thought. Major chewed it over.

Alone in their notes of dissonance, Labour's Tony Benn and the Tories' Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton South-West) hinted at unreconstructed attitudes. Benn's nationalist, Budgen's Unionist. Their isolation served only to underline the change that has come over this Commons. A hushed chamber: as quiet as Friday's explosion was loud. But, in its way, equally surprising.

### Homework guidelines criticised

## Labour proposals lack substance, say head teachers

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

HEAD teachers of secondary schools condemned Labour's policies for raising standards as an "uncomfortable mixture of the naive and the messianic" yesterday.

In a withering critique of proposals launched by Tony Blair last December, the Secondary Heads' Association accused Labour of putting political considerations before educational objectives. Most of the planned initiatives lacked substance or were "trivial" attempts to offer an alternative to government policy.

The head teachers criticised the degree of centralisation in Labour's blueprint for schools and expressed alarm at the prospect of renewed control by local authorities. John Dunford, the association's president, said: "This suggests Labour is coming in thinking it can legislate every problem out of existence."

Labour leaders dismissed fears of a revival in town hall power over schools and insisted that their proposals were based on the best research and "sound good practice". Pri-

vately, some accused the association of jibing at its tough line on failing schools and incompetent teachers.

The dispute provided the first challenge to Labour from the teaching profession, which has opposed many of the Government's reforms. The association said it welcomed the philosophy behind the policy document *Excellence for Everyone*, but found few positive ideas.

Among the proposals attacked by the head teachers were the speeding of dismissal procedures for poor teachers, official encouragement for streaming by subject, the introduction of national homework guidelines and the involvement of local authorities in school development plans. John Sutton, the general secretary, appealed for schools to be given a period of stability to make existing schemes work.

Mr Sutton said Labour's embargo on spending commitments was hampering the development of detailed policies. The association was also

worried by the "somewhat puritan approach" to dealing with bad teachers.

But the association's greatest concern was in the lack of clarity in Labour's plans for the role of local education authorities. Some proposals for dealing with failing schools were "intrusive" and any revival of powers removed under Conservative rule would demoralise teachers.

Peter Miller, its deputy president, said many able people had left local authorities as the bodies' powers had declined.

"There is serious concern about the calibre of people who are working in LEAs now. Many would not command respect in schools," he said.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, Estelle Morris, Labour's education spokeswoman, said Labour had made clear spending commitments, including the promise that no child aged under seven would be taught in classes of over 30. She denied that Labour had any plans to re-impose LEA control.

### Major's internal critic to lead from the back

BY NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR suffered a setback last night when one of his critics was elected leader of the backbench Tory Right. John Townend, MP for Bridlington, narrowly defeated a challenge by Neil Hamilton, a former minister, for the chairmanship of the 92 Group. Mr Townend, who publicly backed John Redwood in last year's leadership contest, confounded predictions that he would be punished for his past disloyalty.

Mr Hamilton was put forward as the "establishment candidate" in the battle between two right-wingers with similar Euro-sceptic, free-market views. The 46-year-old MP for Tatton drew support from loyalists and Young Turks impressed by his strong Thatcherite credentials.

But Mr Townend's power base among the Euro-sceptic old guard in the 92 Group proved decisive. He was backed by most of its five-strong steering committee and gained his reward for 12 years as the group's secretary. Mr Townend, 61, is a confidant of Sir George Gardiner, another of Mr Redwood's supporters.



John Townend, who defeated Neil Hamilton for the chairmanship of the Conservative 92 Group.

who was elected to the steering committee when he stepped down after 11 years as chairman.

Conservative MPs have curbed their appetite for internal intrigue and rebellion as the general election approaches but Mr Major still faces stiff tests — over the Scott report on Thursday, the Europe White Paper next month, the local council elections in May and the economy. The Prime Minister will be hoping that Mr Townend and his allies will not rock the boat.

## Revised ERM may herald the euro

Europe's leaders are planning a new exchange-rate mechanism as part of moves towards a single currency. Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, says today, in an article in *Parliamentary Review* underlining Germany's backing for a core group of European Union countries to forge ahead with a single currency by 1999. Dr Waigel said that the Madrid summit in December backed the idea of a reform ERM to bring the euro to the centre for countries that did not sign up at the start.

However, the Treasury said that the summit committee says that member states simply decided to conduct a study of the future relationship between countries inside EMU and those outside. France hints at delay, page 11

## Winds bring power cuts

Winds gusting at 80mph damaged power lines in Devon and Cornwall yesterday, leaving 4,000 homes without electricity. A barn on a farm near Stithians was roped down to prevent it being blown into a nearby road. A typhoon was thought to have ripped the roof off a house in Ryston, Hertfordshire, and damaged roofs in nearby streets. A search was under way last night for an unnnamed climber missing after being swept down a mountain by an avalanche in the Highlands.

Forecast, page 22

## Boy on murder charge

A 13-year-old boy was remanded into the care of social services yesterday charged with murder after a teenager was stabbed to death in a row with friends. Richard Duxbury, 16, died on Saturday night from a single wound to the chest from a bread knife at Chaddesden, Derbyshire. A 15-year-old and a 17-year-old were charged with violent disorder and released on bail by Derby magistrates sitting as a youth court. All four youngsters lived locally and attended the same school.

## Army recruitment bonus

Thousands of soldiers are being issued with bounty cards that could earn them £250 each if they recruit a friend. The "satisfied soldier" card scheme is the latest move by the Army to boost recruiting in the face of an alarming shortage of frontline troops. A shortfall of 2,000 is expected this year. Cards are being handed out to potential recruits of all ranks in modernised units. The first two soldiers, a Guardsman and a member of the Royal Anglian Regiment, have already received their payments.

## Church lottery dilemma

Some parishes and churches will be forced to seek lottery cash, despite recent criticism of the National Lottery by senior members of the Church of England, the General Synod was told yesterday. The Rt Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool and chairman of the Church's Board of Social Responsibility, said he believed the lottery was here to stay, but "we believe it could be better regulated and that there are some regulations which would be better put in place".

## Raffle couple guilty

A couple who offered their Lake District cottage in Great Langdale as the prize in a raffle found themselves in trouble when they failed to sell enough tickets. The woman who won was offered cash of just over £1,000 instead of the £150,000 home. Andrew Barnett, 50, and his former wife Elizabeth, 40, admitted at Carlisle Crown Court stealing £1,022 from some of the people who bought tickets. They will be sentenced next month. Twelve charges of obtaining money by deception were withdrawn.

## Juror jailed for fraud

A juror who swindled more than £3,000 in false expense claims during one of Scotland's longest-running trials was jailed for six months yesterday. Glasgow Sheriff Court was told that Thomas Young, 35, of Haghill, Strathclyde, said that he earned £200 a week at a restaurant but he worked there only on a casual basis. The six-month trial held at the Sheriff Court in 1994 came close to being aborted when two other members of the jury were also dismissed for expenses fraud.

## Jail hostage inquiry

Prison staff began an inquiry yesterday into how two inmates were able to get a craft knife and hold a prison auxiliary hostage for nine hours at a top-security prison. The male auxiliary was released unharmed after being held in a cell at Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire by two men serving lengthy sentences.

## Baseball bat victim

A passenger in a car who died after being beaten with a baseball bat by another motorist was the victim of an unprovoked attack, police confirmed yesterday. Peter Smiles, 39, was attacked on Friday by a man after an argument near Pontefract, West Yorkshire. He never regained consciousness and died two days later.

## Take That split denied

The top-selling pop band Take That is to issue a statement today after speculation about its future. Ardent fans bombarded the band's record company yesterday after press reports that the group would split after one final tour. The reports were denied by the record company RCA, which said they were "completely unfounded".

## Allison falls foul

Malcolm Allison, the former soccer manager, has been sacked as a radio commentator after complaints about him swearing on air. Mr Allison, who used to manage Middlesbrough, was working for Tyneside-based Century Radio when he swore as Newcastle United's Les Ferdinand scored the winner against Middlesbrough on Saturday.

## Small firm gives Tories a big boost of £114,000

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A LITTLE-KNOWN family building firm has made a surprise £114,000 donation to the Tories at a time when corporate donors have been deserting the party. The donation from J.J. Gallagher, a Birmingham-based building company, has dwarfed the contributions of some of the party's biggest commercial supporters.

Directors of the private company, which employs 40 people in its Bordesley Green headquarters, were reluctant to discuss the donation, which has upset Midlands trade unionists.

In the past the company has been better known for its passionate support for Wolverhampton Wanderers football club rather than for John Major. The family sold the club for £2 million to Sir Jack Hayward in 1990.

Tony Gallagher, the company chairman, said last night: "There are many others in the country who do not have money privately and don't have to reveal it."

The company has been a staunch but less generous supporter of the party in the past. It gave £12,000 in 1991 and £10,500 the following year. Last year the company made a profit of £7 million.

Mr Gallagher, the son of the

late founder, who comes from Co Mayo, said: "We make all the necessary disclosures about any donations we make. The amount has not necessarily increased. There is a history of this company supporting the Conservative Party. If you do it through your company you have to disclose it — if you do it privately, you do not. It is private. We are a very low-key company."

Bob Shaw, Birmingham district organiser of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "They are giving the Tories £114,000 for political purposes. We are amazed as anyone else that a firm which is really small fry has given such a large sum."

The construction industry has been gripped by one of the most protracted recessions in living memory with tens of thousands of workers on the dole. The company has been involved in a number of big retail contracts in the Midlands. John Partridge, spokesman for the Transport and General Workers' Union — which covers builders — said: "You expect this from merchant banks but it is unbelievable from a building firm."

Company donations to the Conservative Party have slumped by a third in the past five years.

## Major keeps peace hopes alive

Continued from page 1  
ed he was "not in the business of slamming doors".

He was not seeking to erect barriers "or produce harsh words that will make it more difficult for those in Sinn Fein to do what needs to be done."

Mr Major's readiness to explore alternative ideas marked a contrast with his stance last month when, responding to the report of the Mitchell commission, he suggested that a start to decommissioning or elections were the routes to progress.

He confirmed, however,

that he would continue to support for the election idea;

he stressed that it would have to be broadly acceptable and that it would be strictly time-limited. Any suggestion of a return to old-style Stormont rule was "manifest nonsense".

But when asked whether he had taken note of Mr Bruton's criticism of elections as "pouring petrol on the flames" he replied: "That is a matter under discussion and I think we will be able to reach an amicable agreement."

Mr Major said that the Docklands bomb might not be the last atrocity: more might

follow on the mainland and in Northern Ireland.

Mr Adams later condemned Mr Major for breaking ministerial contact with Sinn Fein. He said: "We are back to the old agenda. It didn't work for 25 years; marginalising isolating people didn't work. What worked was dialogue, what worked was people trying to move the situation forward. The big lesson of the past 18 months is that unless

John Major is part of the partnership, to build peace then we are all doomed."

Sinn Fein is not surprised by Britain's decision to cut off

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School criticises hotel where drink was spiked

## Head advises parents to ban children from raves

By PAUL WILKINSON

A HEADMASTER warned parents yesterday to keep their children away from rave parties after a schoolboy was left in a serious condition when his lemonade was spiked with drugs. Neville Tate, headmaster of Yarn School, Cleveland, told parents that allowing their children to go to raves could result in death.

More youngsters are expected to attend events over the next few days at the Hardwick Hall Hotel in Sedgefield, Co Durham, where James Fountain, 16, had a drink laced at a party ten days ago.

He is in a serious condition in a psychiatric unit, semi-conscious, unable to recognise his parents or hold a conversation for more than five seconds. Scientists have yet to determine what was put in his drink. Tests have confirmed that the substance was not heroin, amphetamines or opiates but it will be some time before more complex tests can determine whether it was Ecstasy or LSD.

Mr Tate wrote to the parents of his 500 senior pupils, accusing the party's organisers of negligence. The occasion was not private and was run wholly without appropriate supervision or effective control," he wrote. "As a consequence of this negligence some very undesirable people gained admission and it appears, one of them, may have



James Fountain may have been drug dealers' target

slipped a powerful drug into a drink which James consumed.

I understand that further dances in a similar vein are scheduled to take place at the same venue. Doubtless you will wish to give serious thought to the suitability of these dances as far as your son is concerned.

It appears that little or nothing was done to comply with the law on under-age drinking and Yarn, and other schools whose pupils were present will be encouraging the police and the licensing authorities to look closely at this and other aspects of the

hotel's conduct." A police raid on the hotel last Friday resulted in the seizure of cannabis, Ecstasy, steroids and syringes, as well as CS spray, a knuckleduster and an imitation firearm. Three men in their 20s and three 16-year-olds were detained and later released on police bail until next month. Staff at the hotel declined to comment nor would it owner, Ranside Estates of Durham.

Police said that James, from Hartlepool, Cleveland, had, in effect, been on a "week-long trip" and doctors were fearing that he might never recover

fully. Police believe James was targeted by drug pushers at the party after he either confronted them or warned fellow pupils to keep away from the dealers. His parents told police that their son was vociferous in condemning the use of drugs.

About 300 teenagers from independent schools all over the North East paid £6 each to get into the party, organised by a sixth-former from Barnard Castle, a public school in the region. The youth was questioned by detectives last week.

Several pupils from public schools are known to make a substantial profit by organising such events. They start at about 7.30pm and finish before midnight. A DJ is hired to provide dance music and, although alcohol is not provided, the venues all have licensed bars. Publicity is circulated within the public school network but tickets are often also sold on the door.

James's parents, Christopher and Barbara Fountain, thought their son was drunk when friends took him home from the party. The next morning they realised it was not alcohol and took James to their GP. He was taken to Hartlepool General Hospital and transferred to the specialist psychiatric unit at St Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough. His parents have been at his bedside ever since.

## Top schools order urine tests for drug offenders

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LEADING independent schools have ruled out random drug tests but a growing number are introducing regular urine tests as a condition of returning known users.

Guidance sent to the 240 schools in the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference last week suggests that pupils caught with cannabis should be given a second chance. The advice was drawn up by a committee of the conference. Its 240 schools include Eton College, Millfield in Somerset, and Wellington College, Berkshire, which all expelled pupils last year in drugs

incidents. Keith Dawson, headmaster of The Haberdashers' Aske's School, in Hertfordshire and chairman of the committee, said that boarding schools were more keen to introduce testing as part of a rehabilitation regime agreed with parents and the pupils.

We know drug-taking is part of youth culture. I think people will move away from the first frozen response into saying we must understand it and do something more positive, he said. Drugs-testing will be used to support people who want to move out of

drugs. It would never be used randomly, which would be wrong morally and probably legally."

Research at Exeter University last summer among 50,000 teenagers showed that a third of boys aged 15 and 16 and more than a quarter of girls in that age group had tried cannabis. Amphetamines or "speed" had been tried by 11.2 per cent of the boys and 9.5 per cent of the girls. Two school years earlier, one in ten children aged 13 and 14 had tried cannabis.

Sevenoaks School, Kent, re-admitted nine senior pupils suspended for drug-taking provided that they took urine tests ranging from twice a week to once a month. None of the pupils, who left last summer, tested positive.

A growing number of schools are writing a drug-test clause into their contract with parents so that they can ask a student to undergo analysis if there are well-founded suspicions.

In the past 12 months Eton expelled a boy and suspended another for possessing Ecstasy and four sixth-formers were arrested in March after one was found with cannabis. Last summer three boys were expelled from Wellington College, four were suspended from Westminster School, London, and two were expelled from Millfield. Three were expelled and 19 disciplined at Pangbourne College, Reading.

Magnus Linklater, page 14

## Ecstasy 'can devastate brain, heart and liver'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

USERS of Ecstasy risk serious irreversible damage to the brain, heart and liver, according to research published today. Doctors in Sheffield studied the fitness and organs of seven men aged 20 to 25 who died from taking Ecstasy and a similar drug.

All of their livers had undergone dramatic changes, ranging from large areas of dead tissue to jaundice. Five of the men had similar damage to the heart. Three had swelling, internal bleeding and damaged neurons in the brain. Changes seen in body tissues may have been caused by the toxic

effects of Ecstasy. The short-term risks of Ecstasy use are becoming increasingly more apparent and questions must be asked about the long-term effects on the brain, liver and heart, considering the pathology in those who die, a report in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* says.

Doctors from Sheffield University and the city's Royal Hallamshire Hospital say in the report that they estimate more than 500,000 people use Ecstasy in Britain each week. The mixture of substances used to make tablets increased the possibility of toxic contamination.

Magnus Linklater, page 14

## Court orders Scots girls to join father in France

By GILLIAN BOWTHORPE

TWO young girls at the centre of a custody battle have been ordered to return to their father in France, despite their pleas to stay in Scotland with their mother and younger brother.

Fiona Cameron, 36, who has been ordered to return her daughters Rachael, 7, and Sasha, 5, to their father Robert Cameron, 41, near Bordeaux in a fortnight, said she was "devastated" by the ruling. She said Rachael had been crying herself to sleep at night with the worry of the case.

Yesterday, Lord Hamilton, sitting at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, ruled in favour of Mr Cameron, an archaeologist, and ordered the girls return to France. Last July the same judge ruled in favour of the mother.

The Court of Session heard that Rachael and Sasha wanted to stay with their mother and brother, Hamish, 3, in Portmanock, Highland. Rachael said: "I want to stay because I love my pony Snowdrop so much. I love my teacher and my school." She said she had forgotten most of

her French and found the language difficult at school. Her mother claimed the children had lived in France for a total of only three months. Mr Cameron said they had been in an "intolerable situation" if they were forced to return and that they would suffer psychological harm.

Yesterday, after hearing she had lost her case, Mrs Cameron said: "I can't believe that any legal system would want to separate two sisters from their brother. They are devot-

ed to each other." She will consult her solicitor in the next few days to see if there is any further action which can be taken. "I am dreading going to court using a language I don't understand in a country I don't live in to decide the future of children born in Scotland," she said.

Lord Hamilton pointed out that Mr Cameron was prepared to move out of his home in France and live near by so that the children and their mother could live in the home.

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GET ON TO LONDON

LONDON  
ELECTRICITY

Wanted: homes for atomic kittens

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

FOUR kittens born inside a nuclear power plant have been cleared for rehoming after being cleared of heavy doses of radiation.

Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Neutron were born after their mother crept under barbed-wire fences and evaded infra-red beams to seek privacy at San Onofre nuclear power station on the California coast.

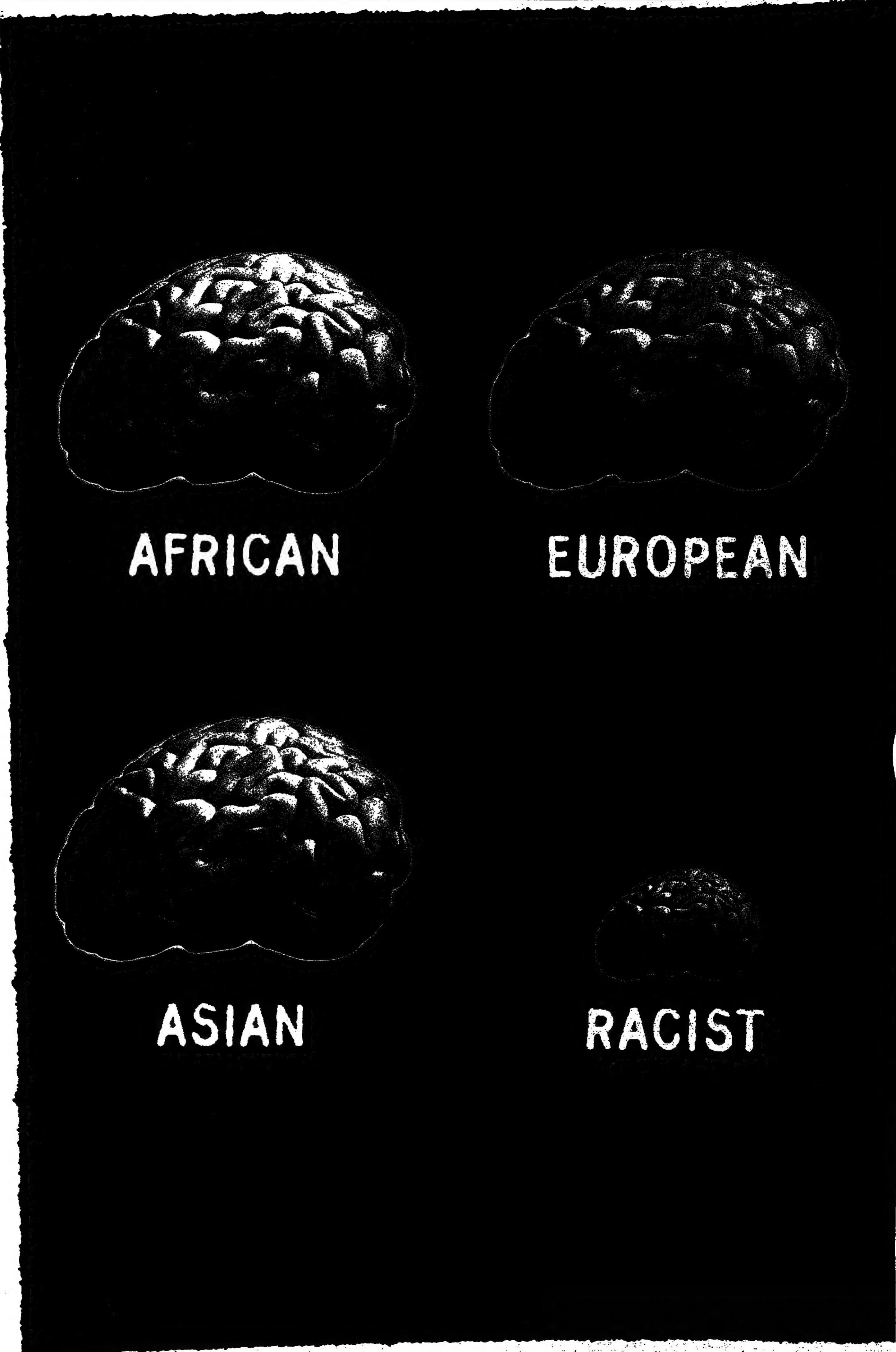
Despite a rigorous pest-control programme, the four black kittens roamed the plant undetected for three weeks. Engineers then found them by a defunct reactor, and tried to carry them to freedom without notifying plant officials.

The plan foaled when alarm bells rang at the decontamination monitors through which all workers must pass every day. Geiger counters registered high levels of radioactive caesium and cobalt in the kittens' fur. They were surrendered to specialists who washed them, tested their secretions and gave warning that they might never be completely radiation-free.

Although they were exposed to the equivalent of six X-rays, the kittens showed no ill-effects. On Sunday officials said they would probably be free to leave the plant within 65 days, prompting bids from would-be owners throughout America.



Sharon Phillips, a senior health physics technician at San Onofre, with the kittens



Fifty years on, German returns to homeland for silver hidden in last weeks of the war

## Count recovers the treasure he buried in face of Russian advance

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A GERMAN count has unearthed a hoard of silver he buried more than 50 years ago as a teenager fleeing with his family from the advancing Russian forces.

Count Alexander zu Lynar-Redern, 67, a retired manager of the Lufthansa airline, recalled yesterday how he buried the treasure at night as the Second World War drew to a chaotic close. It was hidden hours before the Soviet troops moved into Görisdorf, the castle and estate about 30 miles northeast of Berlin, in which his family had lived for 300 years.

The treasures included a 120-piece silver dinner service made by Odiot of Paris in the 1830s and Meissen porcelain off which European royalty ate in the 19th century. The count, who lives in Nice with his French wife, will sell them through Sotheby's as a series of sales in May and June for an estimated £150,000.

On April 20, 1945, the count and his mother, Princess Victoria — who had been widowed in 1934 — were preparing to flee with other families in German villages near the River Oder. A tractor



and two trailers on which they were planning to escape had room only for people, not possessions: they were taking 30 of their faithful estate workers with them.

The count said: "The Russians were very close. The sky was lit with artillery. I was afraid that I'd get hit by a grenade and I'd be buried."

With their gamekeeper,

coachman and an estate

worker, they packed their best silver and porcelain into wooden crates.

They loaded them on to a horse-drawn cart and drove into the forest where they dug two deep holes. They lowered the crates into them and covered the area with leaves and branches. The count, who had hepatitis and was too weak to dig, recalled how they felt like "old-fashioned pi-

ates". They wrapped each precious object in newspaper, and used stone hunting markers along the forest track as guides.

The silver was placed in one hole, the porcelain in the other. The count drew a map, determined to retrieve the treasure one day.

Five days later, he and his

mother told the estate workers to grab their most precious possessions. They fled. Within 24 hours, the Soviet army arrived at Görisdorf.

The building and its contents were quickly destroyed.

"My mother believed she'd come back after six months."

He was sure it would take longer, but not 50 years. He kept the yellowing piece of paper with him wherever he went: it was all that was left of his heritage.

It was not until June 1995

that he was able to return. Görisdorf had been expropriated by the Communists: the forest had become the private hunting ground of General Mielke, head of the Stasi, the East German secret service.

The general regularly hunted over the land under which the

treasure was buried.

Unification and the fall of

the Berlin Wall in 1989 made it possible for the count to return. He was told after

lengthy negotiations that the

land would not be returned but that he could keep "portable things".

He enlisted the help of

Gregory Mills, a professional

treasure hunter. The forest, mainly in trees, had changed

so much in half a century that

they could not rely on the

map.

The count's markings nar-

rowed their search to a radius

of 200 metres, but the treasure

was some two metres below

ground. With complex detect-

ing equipment, they found the

exact spot within 90 minutes.

The count recalled how, as

they started digging, "we heard a little click. That was

the first plate."

Mr Mills said: "It was an

emotional moment. His sister

and nephew were with him. It

was all that remained of their

childhood."

The wooden crates had

disintegrated and much of the

porcelain had broken under

the weight of sandy soil above



Count Alexander zu Lynar-Redern at Sotheby's yesterday with the Odiot silver dinner service, recovered with the aid of the map, below left, that he drew as a 16-year-old before his family abandoned Görisdorf, the family home about 30 miles from Berlin



## Cancer charities vie for share of sunbathers' cash

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

TWO leading cancer charities both claimed yesterday to have launched Britain's first sun lotion.

The Cancer Research Campaign described its factor-20 sun protection lotion as a "British first". The Imperial Cancer Research Fund said that its four lotions, a sticking sun moisturiser, all using the new Sun Safe label, made it the first UK charity to "step up to its own range of sun-care products".

The rivalry means that holidaymakers will this summer be spoilt by a choice of charitable options. Profits on the products will go to research. Both labels give medical tips on sun care, and each charity said it had been helped by Boots the Chemist.

The Cancer Research Campaign assembled an impressive array of champions to endorse its lotion: two professors, a doctor, an Australian advertising man (to talk about skin-cancer campaigns) and the buying and marketing controller for beauty and personal care at Boots the Chemist. Merv Hughes, the Australian cricketer, appeared in a promotional video.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund issued a statement quoting two doctors, a knight and a retail expert.

There is little to choose between the products on price. The Cancer Research Campaign has only one, called "Cancer Research Campaign Sun Protection Lotion", which will sell at £7.99 for 200ml and £11.49 for 400ml. It has a sun-protection factor of 20 (allowing sunbathers to stay in the

## Advertising switch cost council £130,000

A COUNCIL'S decision to stop advertising with Times Newspapers and change to plain blue bottles and has been launched without any advertising.

The lotion was originally developed by the Australian Cancer Society of Victoria and has been made in Britain by Standard Soap of Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund has a range of products marketed under the label "Sun Safe". They have white labels, contrasting with the usual browns or oranges preferred by makers of sun creams.

The fund's "daily sun cover" offering a protection factor of 15 costs £8.95 for 250ml and £12.99 for 500ml. There is a mild factor-25 sunblock for children, costing £9.49, for 250ml; a £5.99 factor-25 stick and a moisturiser or "daily cooler" costing £4.99 for 250ml. The products are made by Boots Manufacturing.

Both charities are copying the tactics of the Australian Cancer Society, which has boosted funds by gaining 25 per cent of the Australian sun-lotion market.

Dr Julia Newton Bishop, of St James's Hospital, Leeds, said she suggested the idea to the Imperial Cancer Research Campaign six years ago. Only now was the public ready to accept such a product on the market.

The Cancer Research Campaign's lotion will be on sale from the middle of March while consumers will have to wait until April 1 to try the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's range.

## National Trust unveils futuristic plan for the past

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE National Trust is bidding for £11.35 million of National Lottery cash to mark the millennium by installing computer-based information systems at 30 of its most visited sites.

After a six-year investigation, Keith Stanton, the Midlands district auditor, has decided that there was no wilful misconduct by councilors or officers which caused the loss and no one is to be charged.

The advertising switch was agreed in 1989 by Labour-controlled Derbyshire County Council after *The Sunday Times* ran two articles critical of David Bookbinder, council leader at the time.

It was Sir Frank Fraser

Darling, the British scientist, who drew attention in 1969 to the possibility of deforestation and fuel emissions melting the polar ice caps (article, February 9).

Although the Law Society has had problems with a new computer system (report, February 7) all solicitors' practising certificates remain valid, and applications from those seeking a first certificate are being processed by hand. We accept that the Law Society is not in breach of its statutory responsibilities.

Cunard has not yet announced its millennium plans for the QE2 (report, February 8), and the American-based Millennium Society has no booking with Cunard. If the money is forthcoming,

ing archaeological treasure. The company manufactures radar systems for subsurface detection.

Rumours of buried treasure had long circulated among villagers near the estate. The count said: "I thought someone might have found it." But the three men who had helped to bury it kept their secret to the end. The count tried to trace his former staff but all three had died and he was

unable to track down any of their relatives.

The Odiot silver service was ordered from Paris by Count Wilhelm von Redern.

to celebrate his marriage to Hertha von Jenisch in 1834.

Von Redern, a prominent figure in Berlin society of the day, was chamberlain to the King of Prussia, Friedrich

Wilhelm IV.

The present count has kept a few items as "a souvenir".

household items has estimates ranging from £40 to £1,500, and will be sold in London on May 30.

The 19th-century Meissen porcelain includes one service of 134 pieces and another of 119 pieces. It will be auctioned in London on June 4. The proceeds will be divided between the heirs of Princess Victoria zu Lynar-Redern.

Leading article, page 15

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SDLP leader calls for referendum as main parties voice support for Major's campaign

## Let the people show their will for peace, says Hume

BY ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

JOHN HUME, leader of the nationalist SDLP, yesterday condemned the IRA bombing in London as "a terrible atrocity" and called for an all-Ireland referendum on the peace process before the end of the month.

He told MPs that the people of Northern Ireland had shown a "massive will for peace". Referendums should be held in the republic and in the North asking people if they unequivocally disapproved of violence and if they wanted all parties to begin negotiations.

"I think that one of the best ways forward now is to let the people speak and let them speak very clearly," he said. "Because if they do, neither the IRA nor anybody else will be able to ignore them."

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, responding to John Major's statement, emphasised his support for the Government's approach. "Whatever the political differences between myself and the Prime Minister, on this we shall stand four-square together in the cause of peace," he said. The attack might have been a tactical move by the IRA, but for the victims it was a matter of life or death, he added. "There can be nothing but the most profound contempt for those who will butcher wholly innocent people in the pursuit of any such strategy, whatever it is."

Mr Blair said that Sinn Fein represented only a small section of the nationalist community and must accept peaceful methods if it wanted to join talks. "That is the only conceivable course that any British Government could conceivably justify."

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionists, joined Mr Major in condemning the "IRA atrocity". He said that the inevitability of another terrorist attack had grown as Sinn Fein rejected the Downing Street Declaration. failed to approve the six principles.

### DEBATE

plies of the Mitchell Commission and refused to reach agreement with all the other nationalist parties at the Dublin Forum for Peace and Reconciliation.

"Sinn Fein has totally isolated itself," he said. "The benefit from this terrible incident is the mobilisation of the people of Northern Ireland for lasting peace. There is a great abhorrence for what happened."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, also gave his party's full support to Mr Major. "Is this not the moment when the Sinn Fein must decide whether they are going to be a democratic party committed to peace, or whether they are going to be the prisoner of every callous and arbitrary decision made by the IRA army council?" he said.

Mr Ashdown then called on Mr Major to restore trust and unanimity of voice and action between Dublin and London. "Surely if that requires compromise on the favourite solutions being put forward by both sides, that is a small price to pay," he said.

The Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, said it was "very strange" that

when nationalist leaders condemned the bombing they then repeated the "propaganda lie" that Mr Major and the Unionist leaders were to blame. He accused them of being prepared to "parrot the lying propaganda" of IRA/Sinn Fein.

Only Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield) condemned Mr Major's negotiating tactics. He said that the ceasefire was the product of work done by Mr Hume, Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and the former Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds.

He said that Mr Major's election plan had never been the subject of proper discussion with Dublin. "In one sense there has been no peace process, there has been a ceasefire for what happened."

Robert McCartney (Ind Unionist, North Down) said: "The restoration of a ceasefire and the entering into further negotiations with Sinn Fein/IRA beg the question, will they simply further down the line, when they meet with another impasse, or some situation which does not meet with their approval, simply blast it out of the way in the manner of Canary Wharf?"

Bridget Prentice (Lab, Lewisham East) said that one of the victims of the blast was John Jeffries, one of her constituents. "He was a very talented young musician and very popular," she said.

Mr Major replied: "The best memorial to Mr Jeffries and to all the others who have been murdered over the past 30 years, would be for all of us to bend all our will to finding a proper full-term solution."



Hume condemned "terrible atrocity"

Leading article, page 15



John Major leaving Downing Street for the House of Commons yesterday to make his statement on the end of the IRA ceasefire

## 'We will not be deterred by terrorism'

This is an edited extract of John Major's statement to the Commons yesterday:

THE IRA has brought the 17-month-old ceasefire to an end. There is no shred of an excuse for this return to violence, least of all now, when all-party negotiations were clearly in sight.

After the August 1994 ceasefire declaration, we called repeatedly on the IRA to make clear that it was permanent, despite criticism by some for doubting IRA good faith. We did doubt their good faith, and the IRA did not say it was permanent. Nonetheless, after a prudent period of time, in order to move the process forward, we were prepared to act on the working assumption that the ceasefire would last.

In the months that followed we reduced the more visible and inconvenient aspects of security. We took soldiers off the streets and opened all the border crossing points. We did everything possible to create new jobs and helped to produce a remarkable economic upturn.

We talked to Sinn Fein leaders at official and ministerial level. We constantly sought to move the peace process on to the all-party negotiations everyone agrees are necessary.

No one — no one — took more risks for peace than this Government. But

we never lost sight of the fact that the IRA commitment had not been made for good. No responsible government could have done otherwise. That was why we and others saw a start to the decommissioning of illegal arms as a way of creating confidence in Sinn Fein's acceptance of democratic peaceful methods and showing that the violence really has ended.

But all the time that Sinn Fein were calling for all-party talks, we knew that the IRA continued to train and plan for terrorist attacks. Punishments beatings and killings continued. They remained ready to resume full-scale terrorism at any time. We could never be confident in their behaviour that of an organisation which had decided to renounce violence for ever. Their's was not true peace.

I regret to say that the events of last Friday showed that our caution about the IRA was only too justified. The timing of the return to violence may have been surprising. The fact that violence could resume was not. We must now continue the search for permanent peace and a comprehensive political settlement. Let there be no doubt that the Government's commitment to this is as strong as ever. We will work for peace with all the democratic political parties and

with the Irish Government. But a huge question mark now hangs over the position of one of the parties Sinn Fein. Their leaders have spoken often of their commitment to peace and peaceful methods. But, they have always ducked and weaved when they have been questioned about the IRA and their methods. After the events of last Friday their ambiguity stands out starkly.

Sinn Fein's leaders claim that they

do not know about the bomb at South Quay and the IRA's ceasefire statement. But they have refused either to condemn or to dissociate themselves from either. Madam Speaker, Sinn Fein must decide whether they are a front for the IRA or a democratic political party committed to the ballot box.

The peace process in Northern Ireland has received a serious setback from the men of violence. But it is not over, not by any means. We have seen the benefits of what has been achieved since the ceasefire: the freedom to live and work normally; and to enjoy life; increased prosperity and new jobs; new hope for the future. These must not be thrown away.

This Government will not be deterred by terrorism. The people of Northern Ireland have tasted peace, a peace that changed their lives. I have told the House before that I will leave no stone unturned in the search for peace. That is true today and will remain true in the future.

The people of Great Britain and Northern Ireland deserve no less.

## Prime Ministers are under pressure for new way forward

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

sympathy and praise were duly paid in the Commons by the Prime Minister and other party leaders.

But more striking was the tone adopted by John Major in his discussion of the prospects for future negotiations. He

was firm, but conciliatory. That reflects a joint approach agreed with John Bruton. There will be no meetings between ministers of either Government and Sinn Fein in the absence of a genuine end to violence, though contacts will be maintained at official level. But, equally, nothing will be done to push people into the hands of the IRA.

Consequently, in the Commons yesterday, Mr Major carefully avoided raising the temperature of exchanges with Gerry Adams. In talking of the "ambiguity" of Sinn Fein's position in relation to the IRA, Mr Major seemed to recognise

the vulnerability of Mr Adams' political position. Mr Adams did not want to "erect barriers or to produce harsh words" which would make it harder for those in Sinn Fein to do what needs to be done. Saying he was "not in the business of slamming doors", he argued that it was now up to Sinn Fein to "decide whether they are a front for the IRA or a democratic politically party committed to the ballot not the bullet". The underlying message was, "we will keep our distance from you, Sinn Fein, unless and until you [Sinn Fein/IRA] unequivocally return to the ceasefire and demonstrate a commitment to peaceful negotiations. Meanwhile, we will not try to

aggravate your [Mr Adams's] political problems."

Mr Major was careful to distinguish means from ends in establishing "the necessary confidence to enable negotiations between all the parties to start". Everything else, he added, is "a means to that essential end".

Given the IRA's refusal to start decommissioning arms now, he argued that holding elections to give an electoral mandate which would lead straightforward to negotiations between all parties remained the Government's preferred option. "The most promising opening available", is, of course, strongly backed by the Ulster Unionists. Mr Major sought to answer earlier "mis-

representations and misunderstandings" by emphasising that the elected body would have to be broadly acceptable and would be strictly time-limited and not have legislative and administrative powers. "Any suggestion of a return to old-style Stormont rule is manifest nonsense". That has always been Mr Major's position, but the reassurances were not clear enough in Mr Major's earlier Commons statement and in his prior contacts with the Dublin Government and the SDLP.

Moreover, Mr Major said yesterday that other options would be considered: none would be ruled out. He was open-minded to a number of

suggestions and did not even dismiss out of hand the call by John Hume for referendums north and south of the border on the renunciation of violence and all-party talks.

Mr Major's emphasis on the end of all-party negotiations rather than the particular means of achieving them, offers the hope of friendlier and more positive talks with Dublin and the SDLP. That is no guarantee of agreement. But there is now pressure not just on Sinn Fein and the IRA to restore the ceasefire but also on the two Prime Ministers to produce fresh proposals at their summit next week. Yesterday, they bought time.

PETER RIDDELL

## Unionist leader preaches calm to 'men who matter'

BY ALAN HAMILTON IN BELFAST

### LOYALIST REACTION

the London bomb, but they are not fools. Any talk of reprisals on Dublin is nonsense.

For Spence, it was a familiar journey. He served 17

years of a life sentence for a

sectarian murder committed

in 1966, before the present

troubles had even begun. Still

protesting his innocence, he

has become the grand old

man of the Progressive

Unionist Party, regarded as

the political front of Ulster's

leading loyalist paramilitary

force, the UVF.

By yesterday the shutter

not previously used since the

ceasefire was declared, had gone

open to all-comers. "My

customers assured me it was a

bit of a knee-jerk reaction,"

the manager said.

Party workers in the bar

said that the paramilitary

commanders had been in

continuous session since Sat-

urday, assessing their re-

sponse to the IRA bomb.

Hardliners in the movement

are said to be pushing for

retribution.

With the IRA ceasefire bro-

ken and all-party talks not yet

begun, Spence believed that

peace process was now in a

dangerous vacuum. "But I

think the paramilitaries will

keep their powder dry: they

have been through the mill,

and they are realists. They

are not afraid of another at-

temptation."

On Sinn Fein's refusal to

agree to decommissioning of

weapons, however, the loyalist

paramilitaries approached under-

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On Sinn Fein's refusal to

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Security alerts cause road and rail confusion as the capital struggles to get back to normal after explosion

## Fears grow for firms as police turn away Docklands workers

By RUSSELL JENKINS  
AND TIM JONES

Thousands of office workers were turned away from London Docklands by police when they arrived for work yesterday. More than one hundred firms are inside a "sterile" security zone circling the site of Friday night's IRA bomb explosion.

Commuters appeared bewildered as they saw for the first time in daylight the extent of the devastation radiating from South Quay.

Many were left unsure what to do next: Some assembled at pre-arranged points and others were told where they were being temporarily relocated. Beyond the blue and white police tapes, roads remained strewn with blasted masonry and shattered glass. Alarm bells continued to ring.

Motorists bore the brunt of the heightened state of security in the capital as police rebuilt the "ring of steel" around the City of London and

The Docklands Business Club, which represents 800

companies, said last night that offices on the edge of the blast zone could be re-opened by tomorrow. That includes the Harbour Exchange complex, which houses dozens of small businesses. Big employers in the area, such as French-owned publisher the Groupe, had found temporary office accommodation.

Some small and medium-size companies located inside the security cordon face a devastating interruption to their business and could go to the wall — especially those without insurance cover against terrorism. Insurance loss adjusters were yesterday working alongside engineers and armed police officers.

The business park backing on to South Quay boasts "blue chip" companies such as Accident and General and branches of Lloyd's and Midland banks. But high-rise blocks, such as the Harbour Exchange, are home to dozens of much smaller enterprises.

Those companies are the most vulnerable to interruption of their commercial life, the possible loss of business and the cost of relocating offices. A few may not be insured against a terrorist bomb. The Association of British Insurers has put the cost to insurers at between £75 mil-



Industrial abseilers begin the painstaking task of checking for broken and loose windows among the acres of glass surrounding South Quay

lion and £150 million. That compares with the £600 million cost of the IRA bomb that devastated Bishopsgate in the City of London in 1993.

Companies servicing the devastated area, including restaurants, public houses and sandwich shops, face substantial long-term problems trying to rebuild their businesses.

When she arrived for work

Clare Chapman, 22, an account executive for The Practice, a public relations

company at Beaufort Court, was waved back by police shouting: "Get out of here.

This is a sterile area." She said: "It has all been pretty terrifying. We left the office at a quarter to seven on Friday night. We just missed it."

Paul Deedman, 30, from Greenwich, southeast London, could not enter the headquarters of the Radio Com-

munications Agency in South Quay 3. His offices are being relocated in Victoria. "I didn't think there was much point in telephoning beforehand. Relocation would give us somewhere to go but I cannot do any work until I can retrieve my personal computer."

## IRA bomb plot was initiated three weeks ago

By STEWART TENDERL AND RICHARD FORD

THE IRA started preparations for the Docklands bomb more than three weeks ago when an English vehicle's tax disc was stolen in Ulster to disguise the origins of the lorry carrying the explosive, the Rev Ian Paisley told MPs yesterday.

Mr Paisley, Democratic Unionist MP for North Antrim, said that the tax disc was used with false number plates on the IRA's lorry. The vehicle was then brought into mainland Britain on the Larne-to-Stranraer ferry. Mr Paisley said: "The details had been confirmed by police to the person who had lost the tax disc."

Mr Paisley said that the theft showed how the IRA had plotted and premeditated the attack. In reply Mr Major said he noted the comments about the tax disc and told Mr Paisley it was "very strong corroboratory evidence".

Mr Paisley's son, also an DUP's justice spokesman, said the tax disc had been taken from a second-hand English-registered lorry on the forecourt of a car salesman's property. "It was stolen three weeks ago — before the

Mitchell Report [on arms decommissioning] was even completed," he said.

Police hope that closed circuit television cameras on main junctions, motorways and town centres may have captured the bombers.

Security managers are being urged to check cameras for pictures of the lorry being driven across London or film showing the lorry being parked in a garage. British Transport Police will check videos from trains going into London from Docklands just below the blast site if the bombers escaped that way.

In the past 17 months Special Branch detectives and MIS officers working undercover have also seen IRA units examining targets throughout Britain. Yesterday as police continued to search the site of the bomb blast, Sir Paul Collier, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, issued an assurance to Londoners and a call for vigilance. The Yard has already drafted scores of marksmen from other duties or leave to provide extra cover for targets considered to be at possible risk.

## Eat out for a fiver

DINING OUT IS always a pleasure, but with The Times Eat Out for £5 offer, it's also easily affordable. All you need is one of the vouchers published daily and you, plus up to five friends, can take advantage of this superb offer which is valid until the end of March. If you missed our 24-page guide send two first class stamps to: The Times Eat Out for £5 offer, PO Box 481, London E1 0BD.

Additions to our guide:  
Kent: Rigging Restaurant, East Street, Herne Bay, lunch T, W, Th, F, Sat, dinner T, W, Th, two courses, Tel: 01227 351880. London: Le Mercury, 140a Upper Street, London N1, lunch M, T, W, Th, F, Sat, two courses, Tel: 071-354 4088. Surrey: Underbelly, 1 Poxmouth Road, Hindhead, lunch M, T, W, Th, F, Sat, two courses, Tel: 01428 604439. Tyne and Wear: Leela's South Indian Restaurant, 20 Dean Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, lunch M, T, W, Th, F, Sat, two courses, Tel: 0191-220261.

**THE TIMES**  
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Tourists destroy resting place of Scottish kings

## Political pilgrims face ban from John Smith's grave

By ANDREW PIERCE

TOURISTS and political pilgrims may be banned from the graveside of the former Labour leader John Smith on the Hebridean island of Iona. Trustees at the island's 13th-century abbey have applied for permission to build a wall round the ancient burial ground.

The resting place of Scotland's first kings is being destroyed by the number of people who go to the island each month to pay their respects to the politician. One grave has caved in under the weight.

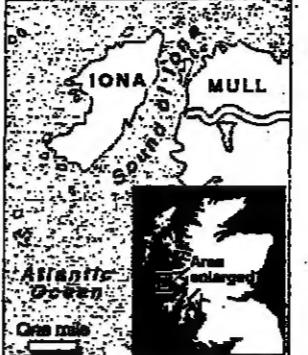
The wall would be constructed from stone and would allow access to the graves only for the Iona community and relatives of the dead.

Residents, who number fewer than 100, fear that the 12-metre wall will take up too much space.

Argyll and Bute District Council's planning committee will consider the proposal on Thursday. It will also examine a plan to install a



John Smith is buried on the island of Iona, which has seen an unprecedented invasion of visitors



Iona

Mull

Atlanic Ocean

One mile

cast-iron gate, bearing a picture of Mr Smith's grave. The former MP for Monklands East died in May 1994.

Evelyn MacPhail, the chairwoman of Iona Community Council, said: "People just don't have any respect. They literally trample over people's graves to see John Smith's final resting place."

"None of us realised the interest in John Smith's grave would have gone on so long.

They even bring coach parties here to see it. Something has to be done to protect the site. It used to be a tranquil and peaceful place. I don't go near it now in the tourist season."

Makeshift railings that were put up last summer proved ineffective — sightseers merely clambered over them. A gravel path may be laid to stop people walking across the grass to the site of Scotland's earliest Christian settlement.

In the winter, after heavy rain, pilgrims have turned the site into a virtual quagmire.

The most persistent question asked on the island is "Where is John Smith's grave?". In the past, the question was "Where are the Scottish kings buried?". The original decision to grant Mr Smith, a mainland, a plot in a cemetery normally reserved for islanders and their descendants was criticised by local people. Mr Smith's family was given special permission for burial only because he was raised in Argyll and was the leader of a major political party.

Mr Smith's widow, Elizabeth, supports the proposal for a wall and has urged tourists to be more respectful. If the plan is adopted on Thursday, the family will be able to reach the grave through a private gate. Local residents would prefer a temporary fence which could be removed if, and when, public interest in John Smith's grave evaporates.



Burning bright: keeper Caroline Connor with her feisty new charge yesterday

New tiger cub comes up to scratch

LONDON Zoo's newest tiger is no pussy cat. The male Sumatran tiger cub, which made its first public appearance yesterday, is proving quite a handful.

Caroline Connor, 20, the keeper who has been a surrogate mother to the cub since its birth three weeks ago after its mother Miri was unable to suckle it, said: "He's no pushover, this one. He likes to get his own way."

The cub is already getting through nearly half a litre of milk a day and is well on the way to his father's daily ration of 10lb of beef.

Covered in scratches, Miss Connor said: "He's got quite a temper. He just doesn't know what to do with his big paws."

The cub, which will be greeting visitors at the zoo in Regent's Park from today, is one of only 250 Sumatran tigers in captivity. There are fewer than 600 left in the wild. The cub will be named in a competition later this month.

## Bypass protesters ransack offices of building firm

By ADRIAN LEE

THE offices of a construction company were ransacked yesterday by a group protesting against the Newbury bypass.

The raid, by about 50 campaigners, caused damage estimated at thousands of pounds and was the most violent demonstration so far.

Friends of the Earth, which is co-ordinating the anti-bypass movement, distanced itself from the attack on the offices of Tarmac Roadsides in Newbury.

Some of those involved in the disturbance reported being beaten. One protestor, who was seen wearing a fluorescent vest, claimed he was hit in the head by a bottle.

Others, who claimed to be workers, watched as whisky was poured on computers, files were rifled, a fire extinguisher was thrown through a window and telephones and fax machines were damaged.

One man was arrested.

Malcolm Whittle, managing director of the company, described the attack as "terrorism" and said his employees feared for their safety. He said: "I have nothing against peaceful protest but what has happened here was not the work of environmentalists — it was simply vandalism. My staff were very worried because the behaviour was very threatening."

Some of those involved are believed to have arrived in Newbury at the weekend to take part in a rally that attracted 4,000 people. They turned their attention to the offices because there was no

work on the bypass yesterday while guards took part in a training exercise.

Tarmac has been named by Friends of the Earth as one of six companies bidding to build the bypass, although the Newbury office is part of its quarrying operation. "We were an easy target", Mr Whittle said: "We bolted the front and back doors but they came in through a window. A worker was slightly hurt when he tried to resist."

SAF, Thames Valley Police spokesman, said the action was carefully planned and had been well-organised. "It was a case of mob justice," he said.

The attack seems to have followed a spill in the ranks of the protesters. Tony Juniper, deputy campaigns director for Friends of the Earth, blamed outsiders. "I think a lot of them were just down for the day. I think they were frustrated because there was no work today. We will work with anybody as long as it remains peaceful. It is a shame."

Theo Simon, speaking from the office of the Third Battle of Newbury protest group, said there could be further aggressive action: "I don't think firms like Tarmac understand any other language and they have got to be hit where it hurts," he said. "They are motivated only by profit. Computers and fax can easily be replaced but the English landscape is irreplaceable. There is going to be more of it."

Photograph, page 22

### DAEWOO THINK THAT DELIVERY CHARGES AND OTHER EXTRAS ON A NEW CAR ARE RIDICULOUS.

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## Venables action is adjourned until after Euro 96

By A STAFF REPORTER

TERRY VENABLES, the England football team's coach, won an adjournment of legal action against him yesterday after his lawyers argued that he needed to concentrate on the European championship.

The adjournment until July 15 of a High Court action by the Department of Trade and Industry — which is trying to ban Mr Venables from acting as a company director — was granted after Mr Registrar Rawson read a letter from the Football Association pleading for Mr Venables to be given the chance to get on with his job.

Ian Burton, Mr Venables' solicitor, said outside court that even when the case returned to court, the amount of work needed to prepare the action would mean that it would not begin this year.

However, Mr Venables is still facing two other actions that he may be unable to postpone until 1997 — a libel case brought by Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur plc, and a claim for allegedly unpaid fees by Bryan Fugler, Mr Venables' former solicitor.

If the Department of Trade and Industry is successful in



Venables allowed to concentrate on England

its action, Mr Venables will be barred from administering, forming or managing a company, or being manager of a company's property, for up to 15 years.

But Mr Burton, speaking after the case had been adjourned, said: "The worst thing that could happen to him would be that he would not be able to run a limited company, but he could still operate as a partner of a firm. He could still own a football club if it was not a limited company."

He denies all the DTTI allegations and will most definitely be fighting the case.

Mark Cunningham, representing the department, said at the hearing in the Companies Court that the allegations related to Mr Venables' conduct as a director of Scribes West, a London drinking club, Edmonds, Tottenham Hotspur plc, and Tottenham Hotspur Football and Athletic Club.

Football summit, page 44

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# Hillary Clinton's love of secrecy led to sea of troubles

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AS President Clinton launches his re-election campaign, he and his wife have swapped roles. In 1992, Hillary Clinton had to defend him against charges of adultery. This year she is the one in trouble, and Mr Clinton is having to defend her against a plethora of Whitewater charges.

Campaign officials reject the idea that Mrs Clinton has become a political liability for her husband. They say she is in huge demand and has a passionate following. Certainly there are many Americans, particularly women, who regard her as a latter-day Joan of Arc pilloried by reactionaries for daring to abandon the First Lady's traditionally passive role, but these supporters were mostly hardcore Democrats to begin with.

Among the broader electorate, the picture is far less comforting. Polls suggest she is the least popular First Lady since polling began and that most Americans believe she is untruthful.

The eventual Republican presidential nominee would risk a tremendous backlash if he attacked her directly, but probably he would not need to. Mrs Clinton is now engraved in the public mind as the first President's wife ever subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury, the woman who turned \$1,000 into \$100,000 on the high-risk commodities

market with help from well-placed friends, and the First Lady who dismissed seven long-serving members of the White House travel office to help cronies who covered its business.

Mrs Clinton is barely recognisable as the smart, ambitious, idealistic lawyer who arrived in Washington wanting to change the world and was swiftly dubbed "Saint Hillary". She still wields great power behind the scenes, but in public, instead of trying to revamp the nation's giant healthcare system, she sticks to safe issues, such as women and Children's welfare.

She labours to soften her image. She is said to be deeply distressed at what has happened to her and even to weep in private from sheer frustration, but a long *Washington Post* analysis last Sunday blamed her downfall squarely on her own shortcomings.

The Post argued that Mrs Clinton's troubles stemmed from the fact that she arrived in the capital steeped in suspicion of the Washington culture and divided everyone into friends or foes.

That was why she sought to impress the White House press corps to the briefing room, incurring the media's hostility, and why she brought in so many Arkansas friends who subsequently became disasters. It was why she insisted

on drawing up her healthcare reforms in such secrecy.

Mrs Clinton did not consult Republicans, solicited little outside advice, and simply unleashed the hugely ambitious plan as an all-or-nothing proposition. It proved far too liberal and bureaucratic for America's tastes, as most Washington veterans would have told her. It was rejected by Congress and was a major cause of the Democrats' humiliation in the 1994 congressional elections.

The same obsession with secrecy has proved catastrophic in the Whitewater affair, although she did agree to a television interview last month with Barbara Walters about the controversies surrounding her. Nevertheless, from the outset the First Lady resisted full disclosure of relevant documents, arguing that "the press will take them and twist it and put it in the worst possible light and it will give our enemies ammunition".

The result is that the White House has been forced to release documents in drips and drabs, sometimes under threat of subpoenas. Mrs Clinton's aides and friends have risked perjury by claiming collective amnesia when giving congressional evidence.

The appearance of a cover-up seems so strong that Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, took the unprecedented step last month of issuing the First Lady and several of her team with subpoenas.

David Gergen, Mr Clinton's former media adviser, told the Post he "strongly, strongly" believed that much of this would never have happened had the Clintons "just disgorged all this stuff" and let the press have a few field days.

American newspapers have festively skirted the question of what would happen if as is just conceivable, Mr Starr brought charges against Mrs Clinton. Could her husband continue seeking re-election in such circumstances, and how many Americans would vote for a President whose wife was awaiting trial?

## Walkabouts take a tumble as Iowa hopefults exploit electronic media

**Tom Rhodes** reports from Des Moines on a Republican advertising blitz that is hastening the demise of "retail politics", where rivals meet grassroots supporters

FOR decades the Iowa caucuses have enjoyed an extraordinary place in the American political calendar, an influence long defended by those who believe the state acts as the nation's living room in its choice of President.

But this year the walkabouts, discussion of issues in rural farmsteads and the "retail politics" which have dominated the process throughout its 24-year history have seemingly vanished under a welter of highly expensive political advertising.

As voters attended 2,142 precinct caucuses last night to decide their choice for the Republican nomination, there was a strong sense that both Iowa and the successive primary in New Hampshire next week may have lost for ever an image as last redoubts of grassroots campaigning. The age of electronic media and the Internet has arrived and America's living room, it seems, is now the property of television.

Promotions for pesticides and pork produce had finally returned to the state's screens the previous day after six

months in which regular community meetings had taken place in little other than the faces of Republican politicians. They had started much earlier, ran more frequently and were more unpleasant than had ever been witnessed by the Midwest. On a typical day, viewers of one station in Des Moines had been subjected to as many as 80 campaign advertisements.

At KCCI television alone candidates had spent \$850,000 (£566,660), three times the cost of campaign advertisements at this Des Moines station at the last caucuses in 1988. Steve Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher, and Senator Robert Dole, each spent \$250,000, while Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator, spent \$60,000.

Dave Busiek, the station's news editor, said that, while a certain amount of retail politicking had taken place in Iowa, it had been far less prominent than in previous years. "Unfortunately, most Iowans have touched the candidates through the television screen," he said. "The levels of advertising have been unprecedented."

The most obvious answer to the question of why this year has been so different appears

to have been the entry into the 1996 campaign of Mr Forbes and his vast fortune. In the final quarter of last year, the publishing scion spent \$10 million on television and radio commercials, most of them in Iowa and New Hampshire.

While advertising alone had not been responsible for his rapid rise in the polls — many in the electorate favour his simple code for flat tax and anti-Washington rhetoric — it has nevertheless proved that a candidate need not necessarily meet the people to gain name recognition. In the final days in Iowa, Mr Forbes had broadcast a half-hour film of himself, *Steve Forbes, A True Vision, An Honest Voice*, no less than 21 times.

Experts have said that the Forbes money-machine in Iowa and New Hampshire is more of a symptom than a cause of change. "This may be the nail in the coffin for retail politics, there is no doubt about that," said Steve Lombardo, a Republican polisher. "But Steve Forbes didn't do it. Forbes has just accelerated the movement of these states into the 21st century."

Brochures and maps will be placed in tourist bureaux to proclaim the scientific wonders of the dump, which last year accommodated 7.9 billion pounds of rubbish. On their guided tours, visitors will learn about waste management methods, the 103 barges which deliver rubbish around the clock, and the underground pipes which take the accumulating methane to a nearby gas plant.

"Burying garbage is not high on the list of many people's career choices," Mr Chalfen conceded yesterday. The tours will show the world that there is more to being a

## Dump is hot tip for New York tourists

BY QUENTIN LETTS

A NEW tourist attraction has opened in New York: the municipal rubbish tip. Two-hour guided tours of Staten Island's "Fresh Kills" dump are being offered to school parties, foreign dignitaries and visitors.

As one would expect of New York, it is the largest waste dump in the world. Fresh Kills, a name which

dates back to the earliest settlers, is 3,000 acres of purified household waste. The city's sanitation department is confident that despite the eye-watering stink, the occasional rat and the many barking seagulls, it will become a "must see" item on tourist itineraries.

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"We do recommend that people wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat or an

umbrella," Lucian Chalfen, a dump spokesman, said. "We have many seagulls here and they have pretty good aim."

During pre-launch trials, tourist business was brisk.

School groups left with a greater understanding of the amount of rubbish discarded by man, and civic leaders from Europe and Asia were impressed by the daily spraying of deodorant, non-toxic pine oil.

The guided tours are given by selected members of the dump's 500-strong workforce.

Previously neglected, the rubbish disposal crews are said to be delighted by the tourist scheme.

"Burying garbage is not high on the list of many people's career choices," Mr Chalfen conceded yesterday. The tours will show the world that there is more to being a

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rubbish dump than holding your nose and shovelling trash. Describing the careful process of layering rubbish and soil, Mr Chalfen said: "It's like making a lasagna." Fresh Kills has accepted New York's household rubbish since 1948 and is now the only solid landfill left in the city.

A rival dump, near J.F. Kennedy Airport had to close owing to the preponderance of seagulls and the danger they posed to jets.

Parts of New York have been built on former waste dumps, including the southern tip of Manhattan and the celebrated Rikers Island jail.

Any prisoner trying to tunnel out of Rikers is in for a rotten surprise.

No charge is made for the Fresh Kills tours, and visitors are encouraged to take away souvenirs.

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rubbish dump than holding your nose and shovelling trash. Describing the careful process of layering

# French bishops defy papal line on condom use

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Roman Catholic Church in France acknowledged for the first time yesterday that condoms could be necessary to prevent the spread of Aids.

"Many competent doctors state that a reliable condom is today the only means of prevention. In this respect, it is necessary," the French Bishops' Conference said in a report released yesterday.

The panel said that using condoms was not a substitute for adult sexual education, but added that their use was "understandable in cases where a person who already engages in sexual activity needs to avoid serious risks".

That principle contrasts with the Pope's insistence that sexual self-control is the only morally acceptable way to fight the epidemic.

In a sex education guide issued two months ago, the Vatican condemns the idea of "safe sex" or "safer sex" as "dangerous and immoral, based on the illusory theory that a condom can provide sufficient protection against Aids".

The guide said: "Parents must insist on abstinence out-

side marriage and fidelity within marriage as the only true and reliable education to avoid infection."

Mgr Jacques Gaillot, the outspoken former bishop of Evreux in Normandy, was ousted by the Vatican last year for openly promoting the use of condoms to prevent the spread of Aids. He has since set up his own "virtual diocese" on the computer Internet. Several other French bishops have cautiously supported the use of condoms.

Yesterday's report by the French Bishops' Social Commission, however, marked the first time that the Roman Catholic Church in France has as a body officially recognised that condoms can save lives, although it added: "In advising young people to use condoms rather than help them understand their sexual identities, we make them prisoners of their sexual drives."

The statement, the fruit of six months' consultation between a panel of bishops and medical experts, makes no reference to the Pope's statements on the subject of Aids prevention. In the document,

entitled *Aids: Society in Question*, the commission said it was regrettable that church statements on the issue had left it open to charges of promoting death, while noting that the use of condoms was partly responsible for the epidemic's slowing growth rate in France.

Public health officials support the use of condoms, the commission's president, Mgr Albert Rouet, Bishop of Poitiers, wrote. "The Church, tending towards opposition, has seen itself accused of working for death."

Luc Montagnier, the French researcher who first isolated the Aids virus, hailed the report as an important development, but added: "I do not think John Paul II will change his opinion."

Various French medical groups, including the Catholic Committee of French Doctors, also said the statement would help to clarify a hitherto ambiguous situation. "The word 'condom' is no longer taboo for the Church," Marc Gentilini, head of the doctors' committee, told the daily newspaper *Le Monde*.

## German wartime fighter ace dies aged 83

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

ONE of Germany's most famous and influential wartime fighter pilots, Adolf Galland, died at the weekend, aged 83, at home in Remagen. Known as the "Flying Dandy" because of his smart appearance, the pilot shot down 104 Allied aircraft and commanded the squadron that downed Douglas Bader.

When the British pilot was locked up in a prisoner-of-war camp, it was Major-General Galland who ensured that a replacement pair of artificial legs was flown in safely from Britain. His fighters escorted the British plane across occupied Europe and back again.

The pilot — with his pencil-thin moustache and tailored uniform — was an important part of Germany's wartime mythology, reinforcing the idea that the battle of the skies was an altogether more gentlemanly affair than the war on the ground or at sea.

Galland is the closest that Germany has to a war hero. Even so, most newspapers yesterday neglected to mention his death.

His credentials depend not only on his aerial marksmanship, but also on his readiness to stand up to Hermann Goering, the head of the Luftwaffe. He caught the attention of the Nazi leadership when he started to shoot down dozens of aircraft in the Polish and French campaigns, as well as during the Battle of Britain.

By 1942, at the age of 30, he had become the youngest major-general in the army or air force. He was put in charge of Germany's fighter aircraft effort and refused to be drawn into ideological infighting.

Both Hitler and Goering were highly critical of the way Galland's fighters were deployed against the Allied bombers in their daytime raids over Germany. Goering told Galland in October 1943: "The fighter wing has lost its standing, it is fighting in a lousy fashion. The Führer has lost his faith in your fighters. If you don't attack whenever you see the enemy, I will



Major-General Adolf Galland, who was known during the Second World War as the Flying Dandy because of his smart appearance and pencil-thin moustache.

order my flak to shoot your cowardly cripples out of the skies."

Galland and other fighter aces promptly sent back some of their medals in protest. The major-general, who was full of praise for Allied bomber aircraft design, followed Goering's advice and concentrated huge numbers of fighters to respond to Allied raids. The fighters would attack, refuel and attack again.

Galland's contempt for Goering remained, however, and he became part of a group of Luftwaffe officers who, towards the end of the war, openly criticised the management of the war effort. He found himself in direct conflict with Hitler when the German leader ordered the conversion of the new Me262s into bombers.

Galland said that the Me262s were unbeatable fighters: "For the Mosquito it is no escape once a 262 has it in its sights."

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bombers, however, the Me262s lost their main assets of speed and flexibility.

For a while, Galland was put under house arrest, but in March 1945 Hitler placed him in charge of the Me262 Squadron. The war was lost but Galland argued: "It would have been dishonourable to possess the best weapon and not to fight on."

Galland was a prisoner of war until April 1945 and he then became a consultant to

the Argentine Air Force. However, the way back to the reconstituted German Air Force was blocked by its founder, Josef Kammhuber, an old rival. Instead, Galland opened up a successful aerospace consultancy and wrote his memoirs, which sold more than two million copies.

■ Paris: Bernard Delfine, France's oldest First World War veteran and probably the country's oldest man, has died at the age of 110. (AFP)



Galland, left, with Douglas Bader, who was shot down by the German pilot's squadron and held as a prisoner.

## France honours Tina Turner

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

THE veteran singer and actress Tina Turner was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters yesterday by the French Culture Ministry.

Mrs Turner, 56, joins her fellow Americans, Sylvester Stallone, Paul Newman and Sharon Stone, in receiving France's highest arts honour, amid increasing fears that the country is gradually being swamped by Anglo-American popular culture.

At a Hollywood-style ceremony in the Palais de Congrès in Paris last night, Mrs Turner sang the theme tune from *Goldeneye*, the James Bond film that has proved a box-office hit in France. "She has never had anything like this before, never anything as posh

France is being inundated by "Anglo-Saxon" entertainment. Some have argued that the award is becoming merely another international show-business perk, while others say that by honouring so many American entertainers, the Government is contradicting its pledge to defend home-grown French talent against the foreign invasion.

Last month a law came into force in France requiring radio stations to ensure that at least two-fifths of pop songs broadcast are in French.

Mrs Turner lives in Cap Ferrat and, unlike Ms Stone, who cannot speak a word of French and whose award last October was derided by the press, the American singer is reported to have grasped the language, even if she does not sing in it.

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## Fiery critic of 'King' Yeltsin offers to quit Vatican post

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ONE of President Yeltsin's closest former advisers has resigned as Moscow's envoy to the Vatican after calling the Russian leader a power-hungry monarch and publishing damaging details about intrigue inside the Kremlin.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, who

served for three years as the presidential spokesman, handed his resignation letter to the Russian Foreign Ministry after he was given a public dressing down and recalled from Rome in disgrace last week.

The balding and combative former press chief outraged the Kremlin when he published excerpts from his memoirs, *Parting with the President*, and went on television to criticise his former boss and the men who run Russia.

In the book, Mr Kostikov describes how the Kremlin is run by a small clique of shadowy figures, how the offices and telephones of all employees are bugged by former KGB agents and how President Yeltsin has become removed from the day-to-day running of Russia's highest office.

Grigori Karasin, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said:

"An ambassador represents his country, and as long as he serves in his position it is wrong and inadmissible for him to make negative remarks about the leadership of his own country. This is a violation of professional rules and norms."

Although furious Kremlin

advisers would like to punish Mr Kostikov, by accepting his resignation, they will have to judge carefully if he is more dangerous inside or outside government service. Mr Yeltsin, who is expected to announce on Thursday his intention to seek re-election, is

in an interview with *Forbes*, the weekly current affairs programme, which has been broadcast for two weeks in succession. Mr Kostikov painted a highly unfattering picture of Russia's highest office, with policies made by a group of sycophantic cronies and where the head of state had become an emperor with no clothes.

Mr Yeltsin was portrayed as a vain and ideologically bankrupt leader who regarded power as "his friend, his concubine, his mistress, his passion".

Mr Kostikov said: "It is a terrible thing when a man convinces himself he is great, irreplaceable, and powerful. Maybe he is powerful, but he should not say it himself and allow others to say it. This system of converting the President into a monarch is, of course, very dangerous."

Kostikov: Yeltsin "is a power-hungry monarch"

trying to rebuild his public image and cannot afford any negative publicity at this critical point in his campaign. If Mr Kostikov leaves government service he will be free to give as many interviews as he likes and to revise his "lies and tell" account, which is likely to become an overnight bestseller.

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According to Colonel Roberto Conforti, the head of the *carabinieri* unit which monitors art theft, the stolen objects find their way to the homes of the "new rich" as status symbols.

Art experts attribute the mismanagement of Italy's treasure house of art not only to lack of funding, but also to a 1970 decision to remove control of cultural sites from local authorities — which were the proud inheritors of the old city states from which

valuable works are kept in unlocked churches and it is not uncommon to enter a rural church only to find an uncurtained-off space where

according to the guidebook — a Renaissance painting should be hanging.

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## Deal 'ends crisis in Bosnia'

Sarajevo: Richard Holbrooke, the American diplomat who brokered the Bosnian peace plan, announced yesterday that the peace process was back on track after reaching a compromise over the detention of suspected war criminals (Stacy Sullivan writes).

After a flurry of shuttle diplomacy between Zagreb, Belgrade and Sarajevo, Mr Holbrooke said all parties had agreed that the Bosnian Government would submit a list of suspects to the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal for screening before it tries to arrest them.

Last week, the Dayton deal nearly collapsed when the Bosnian Serbs said they were breaking off all ties with the UN peace implementation force and the Bosnian Government in retaliation for the arrest on suspicion of war crimes of two Serb officers and at least eight other soldiers.

Mr Holbrooke said the compromise would preserve freedom of movement and bolster the Dayton commitment to prosecute those who had committed war crimes. It is not certain, however, that Bosnian Serb military leaders will go along with the plan. "We have received mixed messages," a UN spokesman said.

## Bomb found in Colombo

Colombo: A lorry packed with 260kg of explosives was made safe a mile from the cricket stadium in Colombo where a joint Indo-Pakistan team is due to play Sri Lanka today, police said. The match is being staged as a consolation for teams who were to have seen Australia and the West Indies compete in the World Cup. Both teams are staying away because of a bomb last month in Colombo in which 17 people were killed and 1400 wounded.

Meanwhile local officials in northeast Sri Lanka said that violence went on in the rampage that killed at least 30 civilians and a Tamil Tiger soldier who was shot dead two soldiers. The military said, however, that only one civilian, a 12-year-old child, was killed in crossfire after the ambush. Pro-government Tamil legislators said the latest attack would boost support for the Tamil Tigers. World Cup, page 44

## Arafat takes oath of office

Gaza City: Yasser Arafat yesterday took the oath of office as the first elected Palestinian President. With his right hand on the Koran, Mr Arafat told a gathering in the hall that will soon house the 88-member Palestinian Legislative Council. "I swear before God that I will be sincere to the country and preserve the constitution, law and interests of the Palestinian people."

The brief, hastily-organised ceremony came after elections last month in which Mr Arafat won 87 per cent of the vote. (AFP)

## Tunnel blast fails to free victims

Tokyo: A second attempt to free twenty people trapped in a tunnel in Hokkaido by dynamiting a huge boulder failed (Peregrine Hodson writes). Hopes have faded that any survivors will be found. Saburo Okabe, the minister for Hokkaido, turned up 48 hours after the disaster, to be greeted by irate relatives who asked why he had taken so long. The Government's tardiness has been compared with that after the Kobe earthquake in January 1995.

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**ADMIRAL**

# Juppé hints that single currency may be delayed

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, yesterday ruled out the possibility of France and Germany going it alone with a merged currency and hinted that economic and monetary union would have to be rescheduled if others fail to make the grade by 1999.

Speaking after a morning of talks with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, M Juppé also made clear that he thought Britain would sign up for the single currency.

Most of the French Prime Minister's visit seems to have been devoted to the power of positive thinking on monetary union. "I am not here to spread the message of scepticism or despair," he said, several times.

The French franc was stronger than ever, he said, inflation was lower even than that recorded in the official statistics and the budget deficit had been slashed to a little less than 5 per cent of gross domestic product. The assumption had to be, he said, that France would meet the Maastricht entry criteria.

However, apart from cheering for the French economy — still necessary in Bonn, where some economists are convinced that the French cannot make the 1999 target — the Prime Minister was clearly preparing for a rethink on the timetable for monetary union. "The Maastricht treaty is very clear: a sufficient

number of countries must be ready and willing in 1999 to take part in the union. If that is not the case, there should be an agreement over another date," he said.

The Germans will not be happy to hear this. Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrat parliamentary leader, has been re-tracing similar thoughts expressed over the past week, apparently under pressure from Herr Kohl not to open an loophole that can

It cannot be that France goes it alone with Germany. Others will join us, even the sceptical?

be exploited by monetary union sceptics.

Earlier, in a German newspaper interview, M Juppé tried to quash the idea of postponement. "If we started by postponing the date for a year, someone would say 'why not two years' and then it will be 2010 and nothing will have been done. I believe we should stick to our goals."

Despite this confidence, the prospect of failure crept back into M Juppé's public statements. He was ad-

vised yesterday that EMU could not be constructed solely by France and Germany, despite speculation that the two were planning to merge their currencies.

"It cannot be the case that France goes it alone with Germany," he said. "I'm certain that other countries will join us, even those who previously seem very sceptical."

Later, talking to French reporters, M Juppé made clear that he was talking about Britain. Indeed, in his interview with *Die Welt* yesterday, M Juppé mocked the British position. "You have to take with a pinch of salt the supposedly objective analysis of our British friends in such situations," he said. "They are after all in a very comfortable position. They forecast a failure of European monetary union. But if it happens not, then I am sure they will try to jump on the train."

Oddly, M Juppé did not hold a joint news conference with Herr Kohl. The German leader clearly believes that the big common Franco-German initiatives should be announced only with President Chirac. The meeting covered many issues apart from monetary union, however, and according to German and French diplomats, showed a considerable degree of policy co-ordination. For example:

□ M Juppé will be travelling to Russia this week and Herr



Alain Juppé, left, and Helmut Kohl before their meeting yesterday

Kohl will follow at the weekend. Both will be trying to make Russia a member of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, before the Russian presidential election in June.

□ The French seem to be edging closer to a fuller acceptance of the Schengen borders agreement. The French and Germans agree that Dutch action on drug smuggling may well soon lead to border relaxations.

□ Germany and France are to set up a joint armament

agency in Bonn as the nucleus of a future European defence procurement industry.

However, Herr Kohl — perhaps remembering the frequent friction between Klaus Kinkel, his Foreign Minister, and M Juppé when he was the French Foreign Minister — still appears to be somewhat wary of the Prime Minister.

Diplomats say M Juppé spent an unusual amount of time expounding French ideas for ending national military service. Herr Kohl wanted to know the implications of a

professional French Army and is plainly uneasy about the implications for the German Army, which has been wedded for fifty years to the model of a conscript force.

□ Bank bids. The Bank of England may enter the race to design Europe's new bank notes, although the Government has not committed Britain to a single currency. The bank confirmed last night that it was considering submitting designs for the euro.

Leading article, page 15

# MEPs push for controls on TV and Internet

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

MONTHS after European Union governments disposed of French-led attempts to fight the influence of Hollywood entertainment, the European Parliament will try tomorrow to re-impose quotas on television and fix controls on the Internet.

The Parliament's dominant Socialist bloc — including dozens of British Labour MEPs — has a reasonable chance of blocking last year's agreement. This would force broadcasters to transmit a minimum of 51 per cent of home-grown programmes.

The broadcasting and recording industries are more alarmed over attempts to extend quotas and controls to so-called multimedia services, not yet in existence, which will be transmitted by telephone line, cable and on the Internet.

The controls are backed by France, which has been fighting the small conservative bloc, headed by the European People's Party. It says new restrictions will trigger battles with the United States and stifle the emerging multimedia industry.

The Socialist-led moves are being fought by the small conservative bloc, headed by the European People's Party. "Even

*Neighbours* would get the red card," he said. "It was not clear how many, if any, of the Socialist amendments to the broadcasting directive will survive voting tomorrow.

Under the EU's near-impeachable system of legislation, the Parliament's reworking of the directive will be returned to Culture Ministers for further action. Since France leads a tiny minority of members favouring quotas, the governments are unlikely to accept the Parliament's stronger demands. This would leave the existing relatively mild regime in force.

from data banks in the United States.

A coalition of 40 organisations from the European broadcasting and recording industries is attempting to dissuade MEPs from legislating on television and the fledgling multimedia industry. Applying broadcasting rules to planned services such as video-on-demand, tele-shopping and electronic information would cripple Europe's attempts to compete in the world, the group said.

The Socialist-led moves are being fought by the small conservative bloc, headed by the European People's Party. It says new restrictions will trigger battles with the United States and stifle the emerging multimedia industry.

Roy Perry, the British Conservative MEP responsible for the media, has charged the Left with trying to foist high-brow French films on a reluctant European public. "Even

*Neighbours* would get the red card," he said. "It was not clear how many, if any, of the Socialist amendments to the broadcasting directive will survive voting tomorrow.

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# French women prefer a couch potato to Adonis

By BEN MACINTYRE



Depardieu in favour

THE traditional French male lover — he of the perfect body, high-flying career and taste for romantic gestures — is out of vogue, according to surveys which show that most French women would prefer to curl up with a homely and amusing couch potato.

A poll conducted by Marabout, a French publishing firm, found that just 1 per cent of women regard ambition as an attractive quality, while only 2 per cent feel that the Greek god physique is a prerequisite for a lover. A sense of humour

was consistently rated higher than professional success, while reliability and a "heart of gold" were placed above seductiveness and chest hair in the list of many qualities.

The couch potato or *pataf de canapé* has become part of the French language and the survey found that women rate highly men who take their leisure seriously. The news will come as a blow to those Frenchmen who have spent years aspiring to be an Eric Cantona or Brad Pitt when they could have remained a portly Gérard Depardieu or Philippe Noiret.

The intellectual, once the most

potent of Gallic sex symbols, has also fallen from favour. According to another survey by Ifop, to coincide with Valentine's Day, 13 per cent of French women regard intellectual distinction as an attractive characteristic. A shared taste in television programmes will do just fine.

On the other hand, it may come as a relief to the ardent French male to discover that he is no longer required to swim the Seine or write extravagant love poetry to gain approval: the Ifop poll found that a bunch of flowers or a dinner invitation is all that is expected.

"In love, the French lack imagination," declared a headline in *Le Parisien* newspaper as it mourned the passing of the demonstrative French lover. "Where have they gone, the Don Juans ready to walk a tightrope across the abyss just to impress us?"

Even adultery, so long a hallowed French institution, has become passe, particularly among the younger generation. The Ifop poll found that although infidelity remains popular among the middle-aged, nearly half of those aged 18 to 34 regard adultery as "scandalous".

Before he abandons Proust, the aspiring French Romeo must address the most worrying statistic of all. While French men cited three French women as the most attractive (Sophie Marceau, Emmanuelle Béart and Isabelle Adjani), the top men chosen by French women were Paul Newman, Robert Redford and Kevin Costner — all American film stars.

As his fellow *pataf de canapé* melts into his arms in front of the small screen, the amorous Frenchman might reflect: is that true love beating in her breast, or merely the hope that, if she watches for long enough, the man of her dreams may appear?



Cantona: little appeal

# Britain expels Pakistani over nuclear shipment

By MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday ordered the deportation of an employee of the Pakistan High Commission, who has been accused of attempting to supply equipment for Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, served a deportation notice on Mohammad Saleem, after a warning was given to the High Commission last Friday that he would no longer be recognised as a member of staff. The Home Office said in a brief statement yesterday that Mr Saleem's presence in Britain was "not conducive to the public good".

Whitehall officials confirmed that Mr Saleem, a clerk, had been trying to ship material vital to Pakistan's development of a nuclear bomb. He is the third member of the High Commission to be expelled on such charges within five years.

British Customs has stopped the illegal export of material that would aid nuclear proliferation on three occasions. There were two incidents last November: laser-measuring equipment was recovered from a British Airways plane bound for Pak-

istan, and a shipment of special valves, ordered from France and useful for making nuclear weapons, was held up. Early last year Customs also returned to Hungary portable solid-state lasers that were part of Pakistan's weapons-procurement programme.

Mr Saleem was employed by the High Commission while he was living in Britain. He will be asked to leave the country within the next few weeks. In 1990 Britain also expelled Ahmed Jamil, a diplomat who was a close friend of Dr Abdul Qader Khan, the man said to be the brains behind Pakistan's nuclear pro-

## Algeria vow to crush terrorists

THE Prime Minister of Algeria, Ahmed Ouyahia, vowed yesterday to stamp out terrorism "at any cost" after 18 people were killed and 93 injured in two bomb attacks in Algiers, the capital, on Sunday (Mark Huband writes).

Opposition politicians said the blasts demonstrated the increasing anger of Islamic radicals at the failure of President Zeroual to use his decisive poll victory last November to resolve the four-year-old terrorist war. The Islamic Salvation Front, which denied responsibility for the attacks, said: "After the election we recognised the legitimacy of President Zeroual and called for dialogue. To this day, we have had no response."

Algerian security forces said they killed 22 Islamic rebels in five days of operations across the country, the official APS news agency reported.

The Pakistan High Commission would only say yesterday that no member of the diplomatic staff of its mission had been expelled.

## Inspector on trial

Paris: A police inspector has

gone on trial for shooting dead a teenage Zairean immigrant

during questioning at a police station in 1992. The incident triggered days of rioting in the French capital. (Reuters)

were from other cities where there had also been uprisings. Half of these were apprehended or gave themselves up. The rest escaped from China, some helped by ordinary people and others assisted by Operation Yellow Bird, an underground network established by mostly criminal societies based in Hong Kong with links to similar groups in China.

When Chai Ling, the Tiananmen "commander in chief" who now lives in Boston, surfaced with her husband in Paris in late 1989, she described how they were passed along the network for months, and her astonishment at the number of people who had risked their lives and liberty to help the fugitives.

Unholy row

Cairo: Egypt's Religious Affairs Minister has ordered mosques to reduce the number of times they use loudspeakers to call the faithful to prayer each day, in an attempt to curb noise pollution. (AFP)

At least 11 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a multiple crash

involving about 250 cars on a fog-bound motorway between

Venice and Verona in north-

ern Italy. (Reuters)

## Long player

Marseilles Jeanne Calment, the French woman who is authenticated as the world's oldest person, is to make a record with anecdotes about her life to celebrate her 121st birth on February 21. (Reuters)

## 11 die in pile-up

Rome: At least 11 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a multiple crash involving about 250 cars on a fog-bound motorway between

Venice and Verona in north-

ern Italy. (Reuters)

# Dynamite hoarder is sought

FROM JONATHAN MERSKY IN HONG KONG

FOR the first time in years the most wanted man in China is not a political dissident but a suspected criminal.

He Gang, 33, of Shenyang in central Human province, allegedly hoarded 20 tonnes of dynamite which exploded in his home on January 31, killing 122 people and destroying about 40 buildings. The blast left a crater 100ft across and 30ft deep.

Posters all over China are appealing to "all social circles to please report all clues to the public security organs to help capture criminal He".

The case highlights a great fear in China that discontented industrial workers or criminals will set off explosions at factory buildings, party head-

quarters, on trains or along railway lines.

In private gold, coal, and iron mines across the country explosives are used carelessly and illegally. Gunpowder is also used in fireworks, also illegally, which last year killed or injured 60,000 people. Next week, at the start of the new year, another attempt will be made to ban fireworks. In 1994, 26 people were killed when an illegal fireworks factory in Hebei province, near Peking, blew up.

Until recently those on the run were political figures. After the Tiananmen massacre in 1989, a 20-name most-wanted list was circulated across China. Many were Peking activists, but some

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# Day two: Now that newborn babies are known to react to pain, the focus is on the foetus

# Can an unborn baby feel pain?

## FROM YOU TO YOUR BABY

TODAY

● The anxieties that sleep reveals, and how men can produce healthier sperm

### RESEARCH INTO THE FOETUS

No pregnant woman about to submit to surgery on her unborn baby, would wish to contemplate what it might feel. For while the mother will be offered pain-relieving drugs, the focus is given nothing.

Blood samples may be taken from the baby, its lungs or bladder drained or an operation performed while it is still in the womb. Until now, few doctors have questioned whether this is distressing for the foetus. Yet these are procedures which, if performed on a live baby without anaesthesia, would invite a charge of abuse amounting to torture.

The issue is attracting attention from some of Britain's most senior consultants including Sir John Peel, former gynaecologist to the Queen, and Sir Stanley Simmons, former president of the Royal College of Obstetricians. They attended a recent meeting in London at which research into foetal awareness was presented.

Until 20 years ago doctors were taught that newborn babies did not experience pain in the way that adults did.

Some doctors think the research is a waste of time



These six-month-old babies can be seen to react to painful stimuli; now the search is on to find out whether the response starts even before birth

the foetus is quite likely to feel pain. The area of uncertainty is between 13 and 26 weeks.

The first study in the world of the foetus's response to having a needle inserted in its abdomen has been carried out by Professor Nicholas Fisk, a specialist in foetal medicine at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London.

Dr Vivette Glover, a psycho-pharmacologist from the department of paediatrics at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, says that although

the foetus is exposed to many interventions which could be painful — including childbirth and abortion — it is an aspect of obstetrics that has hardly been discussed.

The perception of pain requires consciousness which, in adults, depends on electrical activity in the cortex of the brain. Dr Glover says: "Below 13 weeks gestation the foetus has no such cortical activity.

After 26 weeks the full anatomical system is present and

blood samples taken at the beginning and end of the procedure and the level of cortisol, the main stress hormone, was compared. The unpublished results, based on 47 cases, showed the cortisol rose 200 per cent and the endorphins 600 per cent.

Professor Fisk said: "This was the first demonstration ever that the human foetus

mounts a definable stress response to a potentially painful procedure."

In a second study, Professor Fisk and colleagues observed a sharp increase in the blood flow to the brain in seven foetuses who had a needle inserted into their liver compared with another seven in whom the needle — to take a blood sample — was inserted

into the umbilical cord. When a baby is stressed it shuts down the blood flow to non-essential organs and directs the blood to the brain.

Professor Fisk is now experimenting by giving tiny doses of Fentanyl, an anaesthetic, to foetuses in the womb before submitting them to painful procedures. In four foetuses which have so far received the

drug, it had a blunting effect on the previously observed surge in endorphins but no effect on cortisol levels, probably because the dose was too low; he is now seeking ethical approval to increase it.

Presenting his results to the London meeting organised by the Women and Children's Welfare Fund, a charity which is raising money for research

into foetal pain, Professor Fisk said there were scientific, practical and moral arguments for investigating the matter. Evidence in newborn babies shows that those given pain relief survive surgery better than those denied it.

"We were studying exactly the same things in the newborn ten years ago and there the whole picture has undergone a complete volte-face following the demonstration that surgery leads to huge rises in adrenaline and endorphins."

There remain doubts, however, whether the hormonal responses demonstrated by the research prove that pain is being experienced. Sir John Peel, who is also former consultant gynaecologist at King's College Hospital, London, said: "There are huge differences in individual responses to pain. The margin between pleasure and pain is sometimes difficult to draw but how these could be distinguished in terms of the hormonal response is not clear."

Dr Kyprianos Nicolaides, an expert in foetal medicine at the University of London, said: "The research shows certain hormonal changes. One may be related to pain and 55 others may have nothing to do with it."

Professor Fisk said the test would be whether giving pain-relieving drugs reduced the responses. But it was hard to gain support for the necessary research because obstetricians fell into two camps: those who felt it was obvious that the foetus felt pain and the work was therefore not worth doing, and those — including eminent members of the profession — who felt it obvious that the foetus could not experience pain and that the research was a waste of time.

**JEREMY LAURANCE**  
• The Women and Children's Welfare Fund, Tower Office, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, TD8 4NN

## Interpret your dreams

### THE RELEVANCE OF RECURRING SLEEP-IMAGES

The vivid and haunting dreams of pregnant women may hold the key to better motherhood, Katie Knight writes. Serene, ecstatic or frightening, recurring images during sleep can reveal your inner feelings about your pregnancy and, in turn, ease the transition from daughter to mother.

In *The Dream Worlds of Pregnancy*, Eileen Stukane says that while dreams are always highly individual, those of expectant mothers share common characteristics.

"They are valuable tools for understanding emotional highs and lows, the stress... of relationships, the adjustments a woman makes to her changing body and the conflicts that approaching motherhood brings," Stukane says.

She interviewed hundreds of pregnant women and found their dreams were often thematic. During the first three months, a woman may find her dream populated by fertile images and small animals — cats, sheep and birds. These are surrogate dream images, a reflection of her inability to visualise the foetus inside her.

Water and flowers are common metaphors. Some women visualise miscarriage, imagining baths of blood. These, Stukane says, spring from fear and reflect a mind adapting to a new "being" inside.

As pregnancy progresses into the fourth month, many women experience a greater anxiety in their dreams as the baby develops a stronger reality. Images such as being marooned at sea or stuck up a tree are common, suggesting isolation and helplessness.

Bulky pictures of cars, lorries and houses are often reflections of the woman's body-image as her mind internalises her physiological changes. And the partner usually makes recurrent appearances at this stage, often showing the female's anxiety about his ability to provide care and her fear that she is no longer attractive to him.

At the birth approaches, Stukane says, many women's dreams are an attempt to decipher the sex of the baby, with startling images of, for example, transparent womb.

Stukane suggests keeping a dream diary. By examining the impact of your dreams on your waking state you can confront and articulate your anxieties, she says.

• *The Dream Worlds of Pregnancy* is available from Airlift Books, 1018-804 0400. Further reading: *Baby Massage* by Peter Walker with photographs by Nick Sime (Plunkett, £9.99), on massage and movement for your infant; *Your Natural Pregnancy* by Anne Charlton (Boxtree, £14.99), advice on using complementary therapies; and *The Alexander Technique Birth Book* (Robinson, £9.99).



Mothering instinct: the diaries project provides a valuable database

## A voice for mothers to be

### PREGNANCY DIARIES

A batch of diaries recording the thoughts, hopes and feelings of 700 mothers-to-be as they progress through pregnancy may hold the key to better maternity care.

The maternity diaries, a £150,000 project commissioned by Trent Health, are part of Britain's first survey to record in detail the feelings of mothers during the full term of their pregnancy.

Dr Veronica James, a reader in Nursing Studies at Nottingham University and a director of research into the diaries, says the aim is to collect a body of data to help to discover a woman's needs during pregnancy. Researchers plan to record everything from the mother's relationship with her midwife to each clinic visit, from the day she realises she is pregnant until six weeks after the birth.

The idea is that the diaries will give pregnant women a voice," says Dr James. "Each is divided into sections with titles such as 'About myself' and 'Records of my previous maternity experience'. It asks them to record, for example, how they feel each time they visited their clinic — did they feel comfortable there, would they have preferred to go elsewhere, were they given the information they needed?

The diaries also provide space for the women to record their more general thoughts on pregnancy and childbirth.

Researchers have already received the diaries of some women who have miscarried and these, too, should yield valuable research data.

The diaries allow room for partners to record their thoughts, and provide pages for scan pictures. "We wanted to strike a balance between creating a souvenir to encourage women to keep the diary, while also

making it a valuable receptacle for research data," says Dr James.

A pilot project, in which 15 women at various stages of pregnancy kept a diary for a month, showed that most enjoyed the experience of committing their thoughts to paper. "Many of them found it quite liberating," says Dr James.

Julie Sadler, a mother of two from Nottingham, had just given birth at home to Philip, now nine months, when she was asked to record her experiences and the level of care she received during and after labour.

"I very much enjoyed writing it. Pregnancy and motherhood is such a major event in a woman's life, but no one ever really asks you about it in detail," she says. "When I had my first child, I wasn't particularly satisfied with the care I received but I didn't know who to talk to about it. I didn't feel there was a way of recording my dissatisfaction."

"After Philip's birth, I was able to record in detail my feelings about my midwife care during the labour. This time I was very happy with it."

"The diary provides a valuable opportunity for women to voice their needs. In a restaurant, a waiter will ask whether your meal was OK. No one asks how your pregnancy was. I hope the diaries help to change that."

The project is part of wider research into maternity services in the Nottingham area, and stems from a new Government policy, *Changing Childbirth*, which aims to give women more choice in health-related issues throughout pregnancy.

Most of the diaries, which run to 322 pages each, are expected to be returned between May and July this year. Researchers will then begin collating the data.

**KATHRYN KNIGHT**

## Why a fit grandfather has more sperm than his son

### EFFECTS OF AGE ON FERTILITY

cine in Edinburgh says that there has been only one careful study, in Germany. It produced a surprising result: healthy grandfathers had higher sperm counts than their sons and grandsons.

Although in the German study the oldest donor had the highest sperm count, occasionally babies born to their partners may suffer as a result of their age. Dr Michael Baraitser, a consultant clinical geneticist at Great Ormond Street hospital, said that although the children of elderly fathers were usually just as healthy as those of younger men, they

were twice as likely to suffer from the effects of a genetic mutation which would give rise to an abnormality. Such diseases range from achondroplasia, a form of dwarfism, to Waddell's, in which the symptoms include a white streak in the hair, loss of hearing and spastic eyes.

Fortunately, as Dr Baraitser explains, the number of times that such mutations occur is not great.

The effect of age on a woman's reproductive life is better known. A woman is born with all her eggs, the production line closed at birth and ideally from puberty the egg mature at monthly

intervals. The quality of the ova deteriorates with advancing age and with it her fertility are also more frequently found in children of older women. In young women, for instance, the incidence of Down's syndrome is one in 2,000 live births; by the age of 40, it is about one in 40.

One simple measure to reduce the chances of having a baby with many of the foetal abnormalities is for women of all ages to take folic acid, a vitamin, before they plan to become pregnant.

**DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD**

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TONY STONE



Why should a Duchess profess envy for slum dwellers? Nigella Lawson ponders what happens when discontented wealth meets dire poverty face-to-face

I am not sure that if I were living in squalor in an Indian slum, I would greatly relish a rich royal Western woman telling me how well off I was. But perhaps I would be flattered. After all, it would have been rather worse if the Duchess of Kent, on her visit to the slum and the Hindu women who live in it, had simply squinted sympathetically at them all and murmured: "Poor you, how perfectly dreadful..."

It may be crude to point out that the Duchess, admirer of the life that is lived in such poverty, has been staying in comfort in modern hotels during her stay. Of course she has been. It would be madness to choose to dwell, even temporarily, in the sort of discomfort that prevails in the slums. It may not be madness for the Duchess to be so convinced of the superiority of the slum life compared to our spiritually impoverished affluent existence, but it is symptomatic of the Western decadence she laments.

It's not new, of course. The rich and relatively comfortable have

always envied what they saw as the purity of the poor. Marie Antoinette didn't dress up as a shepherdess simply because she thought the costume was nice.

Only those who know nothing of financial and concomitant hardships can congratulate themselves on questioning the benefits of material comfort and privilege.

The cynic might say that seeing poverty as a sign of spiritual richness is a damn fine way of doing nothing to alleviate the suffering of the poor without having to feel guilty about it. Religion's smart money has always been on that card: telling people that it's not the poverty in this life that matters but the celestial riches in the next is, as Marx and others have pointed out, a sharp political move.

And meanwhile the rich can award themselves the luxury of envy as they point out that it is harder for them — harder, indeed, than it is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle — to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Why then, the poor are lucky.

Surely the enduring tendency of the well-off to see the life of the materially deprived as spiritually blessed stems from the scriptures. But it is more than a biblical teaching: it touches a chord within us. As society has become more affluent, the notion seems to have ever more resonance, for only those with no idea what it is like to live in grinding poverty can think there is comfort in it.

I am not sure whether this belief comes from a sense of guilt about our own material comforts or a feeling of disappointment that these do not make us as happy as we would like to be — or, simply and more likely, a mixture of both. But we take so much for granted that we are no longer able to imagine truly what life would be like without everything we are privileged enough to affect or despise. It is easier to be Anim Roddick thinking that the savage life in some underdeveloped scrub is a superior existence than it is if you're the one stuck in the scrub in the first place.



The Duchess of Kent: admirer of the simple life

Overworked executives are unwise enough, sometimes, to share with us their thought that life must be hard in the deserts of Africa but there is a simplicity to life there that, for all their fast cars and big houses, they genuinely envy. Those who voice sentiments such as these should be dispatched to the heat and dust forthwith, just to see how glorious

that our moneyed, Western way of doing things is, in all important concerns, inferior to rougher ways of life (as if having no running water or sanitation somehow sanctified existence rather than made it hard and foul) is up to a point better than assuming that our ways are always the best.

And perhaps the Duchess is right: perhaps in gaining material

ally we do lose other, important things. Perhaps the price of civilisation is that we behave, in some respects, in a less civilised manner. She envies the Hindu women for fostering a society which values its elders and respects the commitments of family. Showing a fluency in New Age speak which appears to be the second language of the Royal Family these days, she praises them for "living in harmony with love".

She is clearly sincere, and no one who tries to do good or be good should be disparaged for it. But if I had to choose between living in an Indian slum or St James's Palace, I don't think I'd have much trouble making up my mind.

### Chaucer? No chance

ANY don you care to mention has been speaking out for some time about the ever-increasing ignorance of each new generation of the undergraduate population.

The fact that academics have probably been doing this ever since the ancient universities were established doesn't necessarily mean they are being bufferish alarmist now.

But what strikes me is how readily some academics exonerate these students themselves. The latest assessment of the standards in university English departments finds that undergraduates have

read very little that was written before the 20th century, apart from the obligatory Shakespeare play on the A-level syllabus. These academics quite rightly castigate those who have fashioned an A-level English literature syllabus which allows pupils to read more or less nothing but modern writing.

"We find," says Professor Martin Dodsworth, "that promising applicants have read nothing earlier than Thomas Hardy."

Have read nothing earlier than Thomas Hardy? I understand that the A-level syllabus means they might not have been examined on any earlier writings, but it does not follow that these students should therefore not have read any of them. It might well be a good thing to change the syllabus, but I think the pupils who sit the exams must take some responsibility for being so ill-read. Surely anyone who wants to read English at university should want to read, should have read, books that are not on the syllabus?

One of the great things about reading is that one needs no training, no expertise, no special permission or qualifications to do it. One reads for the pleasure of it, not because an A-level syllabus tells you that you ought.

University English departments should not be in the business of catering for those students whose reading is confined to the requirements of any examination syllabus, even their own.

MARTIN BEDDALL

## The deadly charm of Scott's secret weapon

Presley Baxendale's girlish giggle and gentle manner mask her killer instinct and her talent for grasping important details, says Julia Llewellyn Smith

Three weeks ago Presley Baxendale QC, the dark-haired and exotically named counsel to the Scott inquiry, celebrated the report's completion with a trip to Paris with her best friend — Harriet Spicer, the former managing director of Virago, and Maeve Haran, the novelist. "It was Presley's idea: no men, no children, just three girls on the Eurostar," says Haran.

The women, friends since Oxford, blitzed the Musée d'Orsay, trawled Galeries Lafayette and, over long and gossipy dinners, gently raised Baxendale about her new status as Sir Richard Scott's hit-woman. What was her secret, they asked. "Presley said 'It's quite simple, I'm a devil for detail. I really knew my stuff,'" says Haran.

This intimate knowledge of mountains of paperwork certainly agitated Baroness Thatcher when she was cross-examined by Baxendale. "I had the transcript pinned to my wall for a while," says Haran. "It says — Thatcher (wearily) 'Is there more paper? I have never seen so much paper.' Then Baxendale (perplexed) 'Oh, there is much more paper.' That is so like her."

An unfailingly cheerful disposition is another key to Baxendale's dazzling success. Observers have noted her habit of giggling girlishly as she goes in for the kill. In a sketch of the Scott inquiry, John Mortimer noted approvingly how Baxendale beamed at the throngs of journalists.

Such geniality can be misleading. Numerous former Cabinet ministers can count themselves victims of Baxendale's famously soft approach, which William Waldegrave was described as "offensive".



Her looks and her manner belie her many talents

to the BBC, who instructed Baxendale when he was deputy solicitor at the Department of the Environment, says: "Her appearance and her manner belie her many talents. You don't expect such quality in the way she deals with problems." Harriet Spicer says: "Her probity is veiled by her fantastic sense of humour. People don't expect such penetrating questions from someone with such a good sense of fun."

There are many more disparities between the stuffy lawyer image and the Baxendale reality. "She has a slightly romantic, baroque, individual style," says Haran. "Even when she has to wear her lawyers' all-black uniform, she will make sure the jacket has an incredibly exotic lining."

The nonconformity is a family trait. "The Baxendales are a group of wonderfully strong individuals," rather Siamese-like, says Haran. "They are not your average county family." Her father,

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC, says: "She can lead people up the garden path more easily than anyone I know. She has that slightly feminine charm and a deceptive way of asking questions, so you don't feel you're in the presence of a hostile examiner and then you feel a pit has been dug and you have fallen into it."



Gareth Roscoe, legal adviser

was a chartered accountant, who later became chairman of Lings, the world's largest manufacturer of Turkish delight; her mother, who died recently, painted murals.

Presley's name voted the most captivating at the Bar, was chosen by her parents after friends bought a silver loving cup at an auction engraved with the words "To my darling Presley". Her middle name is Lamorna, after the Cornish cove.

Baxendale, 45, was educated at St Mary's, Warrington, a school better known for turning out Sloaney socialites, such as Lady Helen Taylor, Serena Stanhope and Susannah Constantine. She read law at St Anne's College, Oxford, where her tutor was Ruth Deech, now the Principal. "I couldn't say there was anything out of the ordinary about her," says Mrs Deech.

She was a thoroughly nice, hard-working, unaffected pupil in a very gifted generation of Oxford women.

And a contemporary says: "You wouldn't have said she was going to be wildly successful. She wasn't a 'gnome' ploughing through piles of cases in the library. But she did enjoy the law."

At Oxford we were the bad girls who just wanted to have fun," says Haran, who shared a house with Baxendale and Spicer. "By that I don't mean there was lots of drugs and bonking, because there wasn't. But we weren't desperately ambitious. We didn't want to be president of the Union or play Juliet in OUDS. The only society we all joined was the Wine and Food Society."

At Oxford, however, things began to accelerate.

Baxendale, who had graduated with a 2:1, came third in her year in the Bar exams and in 1974 joined 2 Hare Court, the chambers of a High Court judge and family friend, Sir Anthony Lincoln. She made her name and honed her diffident style as a counsel for the tribunal in the notorious Jasmine Beckford and Kimberly Carlile child-abuse inquiries in the 1980s, which were chaired by Sir Louis.

In 1978, Baxendale, whose

previous boyfriends had never

conformed to the public-

school/Oxbridge mould,

married Richard Fitzgerald, a tax

barrister whom she had

known before university and

who had, apparently, always

stated his intention of mar-

rying her. Their wedding was a

triumph of bohemianism. Presley wore a pink 1920s dress and all her family came in fantastic clothes," recalls Haran. "I seem to remember her sister in a kimono."

"She was the first of us to have children, so we are always ringing her for advice on everything from gripes with

to ghastly adolescence."

No one underestimates the pressures of such a demanding career and a young family. "I am astonished that anyone can do it," says Sir Louis.

During the Scott inquiry, Baxendale would arrive in chambers at 8am, in order to be at home for the children by 6pm. In the summer she takes six weeks off to be at home.

"She adores her work but she has always had the capacity to switch off," says Haran. She is not an aggressive networker, preferring to relax with a crime novel and her family than to attend a glittering dinner party. Like all busy mothers she patronises Marks & Spencer. "I often go round for an M&S lunch on Saturday and my children love it," says Haran.

After three years of Scott, Baxendale's former clients, which include virtually every government department, are baying for her to return. Everyone predicts great things for Baxendale, who commanded a rate of about £800 a day for the inquiry and could expect considerably more if she returned to the field of commercial law.

"She's outstanding," says Sir Louis. "If she wants it there is no doubt she will go on the High Court Bench." The problem is that Baxendale is uninterested in such glittering prizes.

A fellow lawyer says: "She wants to do a good job but she has no ambition in the money, status, Establishment sense — absolutely not. I hope she does become a judge though — she would be brilliant as she always has been."

Her ego, everyone agrees, is non-existent. "She is never pompous and never arrogant

and for that reason she is a wonderful team player," says Spicer. "That is why she has

served the inquiry so well."

At Oxford we were the bad girls who wanted to have fun

Baxendale's daughter Felicity, now 13, is a boarder at Downe House in Berkshire.

"Felicity wanted to board,

Presley was very tearful about it," while Charlie, nine, attends a London day school.

Fitzgerald, says Sir Louis, is

a "backroom boy, a very nice

man, who professionally only

reappears in court and at

home takes a bit of a back

seat". His passion is doing up

houses and moving, so the

family have lived at a suc-

tion of addresses, culminating

in their present five-storey

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# A culture in need of cold turkey

Magnus Linklater on the film that divides families

When tickets went on sale last week for *Trainspotting*, a film already described as "the most odious of the year", there were queues outside the cinema in Edinburgh, snaking round the block. Odious it may be, but it has also been accorded the status of "cult movie", and the lavish advance publicity has almost guaranteed box-office success, particularly with younger audiences. That it shows scenes of irredeemable squalor in the backstreets of Leith, that it is about heroin abuse at the rock-bottom of society, and that, on the admission of its makers, it takes no moral attitude towards drugs, has far from undermining its appeal — actually enhanced it.

The starker message emerging from the *Trainspotting* phenomenon is the rift it reveals between the generations on the subject of drugs and their insidious appeal. To judge from the success of Irvine Welsh's novel, and the theatre adaptation which played to full houses at last year's Edinburgh Festival, most of the young who read or see it accept it fairly uncritically as a genuine portrayal of life in the raw. Most of their elders are appalled. The critics, who tend to be of the middle-aged variety, cannot help registering their disapproval.

That response is understandable. At one point, the anti-hero, a shaven-headed university dropout, is shown injecting heroin into a bulging vein in a surrealistic scene which, if you can bear to watch it, has an awful appeal. "Take the best orgasm you ever had. Multiply it by a thousand. You're still nowhere near it," he says. As one journalist wrote after seeing the film: "For a brief but intense moment of desire I wanted to know what taking heroin felt like. I wanted to be on the inside of the experience..."

Translate that into the appeal to thousands of teenagers who will be packing the cinemas over the next few weeks, and you get an idea of the anxiety most parents will feel about its impact. This could be to drugs what *A Clockwork Orange* was to violence — except that that movie was banned.

The producers of *Trainspotting* argue that far from glamorising drugs, they have done their grim best to expose the consequences of addiction. The portrayal of one drug-taker on his way down the spiral, HIV-positive, emaciated, his skin riddled with abscesses, is certainly effective. But at the same time the anti-heroes of the movie are fast-talking, sharp-witted, often funny; the world they live in is one of black comedy and exhilarating brushes with authority.

The reality, as Giles Coren's recent report in this newspaper only too graphically showed, is very different. In Glasgow, where a new wave of cheap heroin has been finding its way onto the streets, there are now almost two deaths a week from drugs. A "scorebag" of heroin, costing £20,

will buy you more for your money than a year ago, and will give you a couple of days' escape from ordinary life. The number of teenagers who smoke rather than inject it is on the increase. There is nothing funny about the bleak housing schemes where young addicts from an abandoned underclass live from fix to fix in conditions of desperation and danger. Few of those who go to see *Trainspotting* will ever have encountered directly this level of hopelessness and defeat.

Nevertheless, the young cinema-goers who will make up the bulk of the movie's audience are likely to accept the drug-taking scenes with far greater equanimity than their anxious parents. It is hard to grow up in Britain today without encountering drugs in some form or other. As one Glasgow schoolteacher said on radio the other day: "My primary children know far more about drugs than I do."

They know about Ecstasy, Temptation, speed, cannabis and LSD, and may well have experimented with some or all of them, whatever their parents may choose to believe. They have probably steered clear of heroin itself, but they are unlikely to be greatly shocked by its use. There is a culture now in Britain that sees hard drugs as acceptable, if not always accepted. And the fact that an older generation is appalled by their use and the consequences of their abuse merely fuels interest: there is no greater spur to experimentation than parental disapproval.

Police admit they are already losing the drugs war

William Empson, the Thirties critic and poet, identified, in his book of that name, "Seven types of ambiguity". How sad that Sir William died nine years before the opening of the Scott inquiry: he might have cracked up a couple of dozen more. No textual analyst, after all, could resist the sheer majesty of David Gore-Booth's notion of "rigorous implementation of a flexible interpretation", still less Tristan Garel-Jones's Humpty-Dumpty explanation that "unquantifiable damage" might well have meant "unquantifiably slight", or the revelation that "Half the picture can still be true".

Now did Empson have the advantage of listening to Gerry Adams, that man of peace, explaining that he could not possibly "apportion blame" for a bomb for which the "responsibility" indeed rested with the IRA, but that he blamed the British for playing a "high-risk game". Ambiguities, professor? We've got 'em. Anthony Eden's "We are not at war with Egypt. We are in armed conflict" would today seem a soothingly straightforward statement.

At the same time, the destructive effect of a drug, the misery they cause above all, their sheer availability, is one of the great menaces in modern urban society. Police, who deal on a daily basis with their effects, believe that they are losing the war against them. Those who have lost children innocently exposed to drugs, such as the parents of Leah Betts, are united in their determination to fight them. So what does one make of a film whose makers declare that they take "no moral attitude" towards heroin?

It would be pointless to condemn the making of a classy and stylistically successful movie. That it deals with a culture from which we may naturally recoil does not mean it has no merit. But it can at least be taken as a starting-point for a serious debate about drugs. Parents should see it as well as their children. They are likely to learn more than they ever thought they wanted to know, but that may be no bad thing. At the very least it will provide some common ground for discussion, rather than the usual unbridgeable gap which tends to open up when the subject is raised.

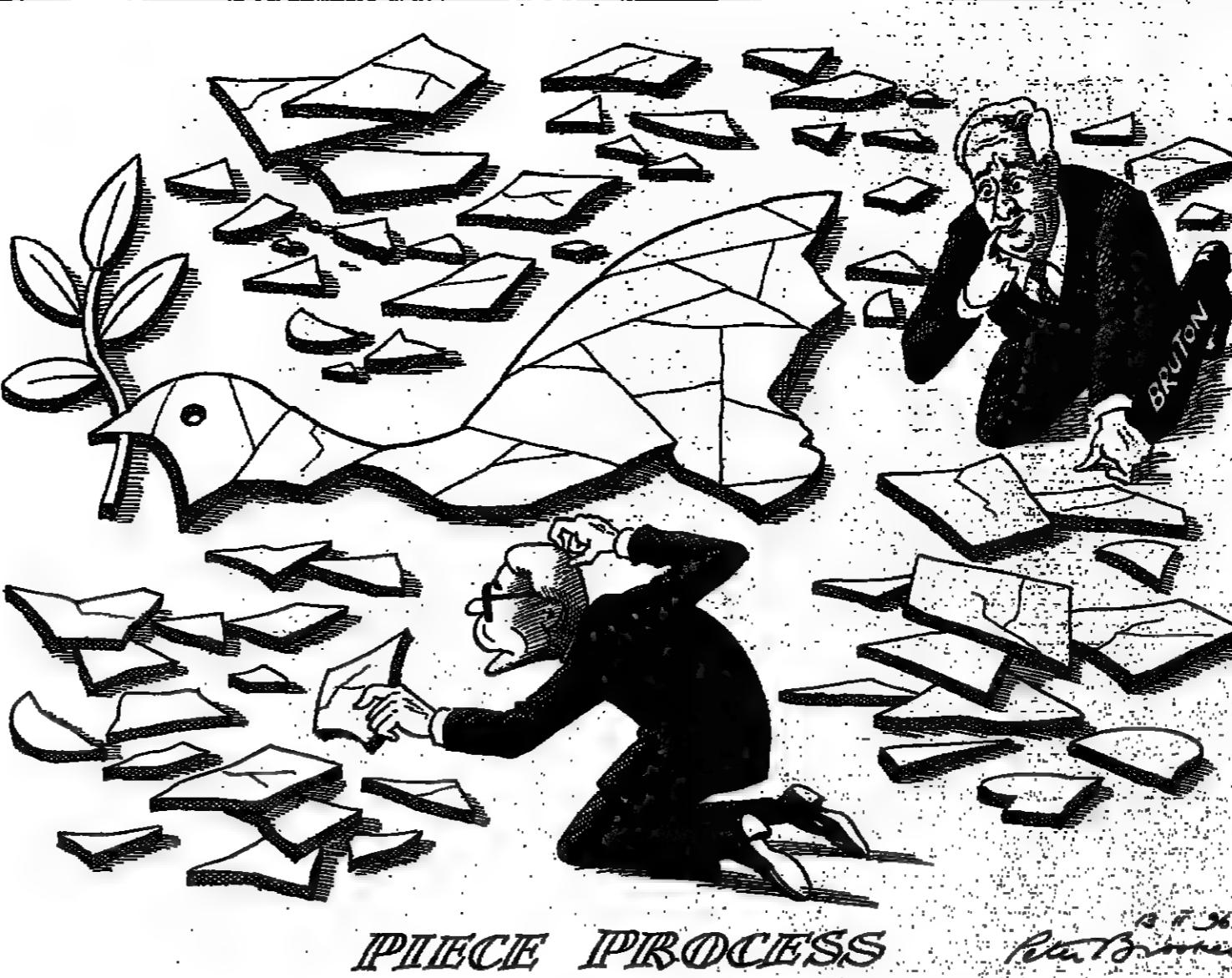
And it might help if Irvine Welsh, the author of *Trainspotting* and now something of a cult figure himself, were to descend from the fence and deliver his own verdict on the nightmare he has portrayed.

operations executive are brushing down their tugs to greet her at the Abbey. Veterans are delighted. Leo Marks, who as a string of 20 ran the codes for the resistance movement, spoke of her great interest in the executive.

"She and the late King came to inspect our cipher artefacts once," he says. "His Majesty stood at one end of the room and we sent him a shortwave radio message, encrypted by Her Majesty. Nobody could decode it for a very long time because she had made a mistake. It became known as the Queen's mistake."

Marks told her years later that her very mistake had actually helped to crack an indecipherable code in one of the most important operations of the war. "In the operation to blow up the Germans' heavy water plant, we couldn't decode the first message they sent us," he said.

"In desperation I said, 'Try the Queen's mistake.' And we cracked it — the agent had made the same mistake as Her Majesty." When she heard of her contribution to the war effort, she was modestly herself: "I'm so glad to have been of some use," she said.



## Governing ambiguities

The evasions of ministers and those of Sinn Fein are too close for comfort

William Empson, the Thirties critic and poet, identified, in his book of that name, "Seven types of ambiguity". How sad that Sir William died nine years before the opening of the Scott inquiry: he might have cracked up a couple of dozen more. No textual analyst, after all, could resist the sheer majesty of David Gore-Booth's notion of "rigorous implementation of a flexible interpretation", still less Tristan Garel-Jones's Humpty-Dumpty explanation that "unquantifiable damage" might well have meant "unquantifiably slight", or the revelation that "Half the picture can still be true".

Now did Empson have the advantage of listening to Gerry Adams, that man of peace, explaining that he could not possibly "apportion blame" for a bomb for which the "responsibility" indeed rested with the IRA, but that he blamed the British for playing a "high-risk game". Ambiguities, professor? We've got 'em. Anthony Eden's "We are not at war with Egypt. We are in armed conflict" would today seem a soothingly straightforward statement.

Empson's seven types, for the record, were metaphor, double meaning, disconnected meanings in pun or allegory, and alternative meanings befitting a "complicated state of mind" in the author, also fortunate confusion, direct self-contradiction and the seventh, the big one, which "marks a division in the author's mind". The modern politician or civil servant must regularly employ all seven types at once. Or, as Mr Major put it to the Scott inquiry, "Something I was not aware had happened suddenly turned out not to have happened". Quite. Beam me up, Scotty.

Members of the Government will, I am aware, already be seething with indignation at this juxtaposition of Gerry Adams with their own ambiguous. But over this bewildering and disheartening few days, I have been finding more and more parallels between the different types of political obfuscation. The fact that Westminster and Whitehall have for so long been performing the dance of the seven veils themselves must have made it easier for them to draw close to Gerry Adams, the master of double meaning and uncertain alliance. It may even have made it easier to believe that Mr Adams genuinely could be a shining beacon of peace and at the same time a reliable spokesman for people who murder harmless

Sometimes these late outbursts of frankness take the form of peacock fury against those who just don't understand. Tristan Garel-Jones, one of those who signed the public interest immunity certificates which could have led to the conviction of the Matrix Churchill directors, lashed out on Sunday under the shrill headline "Stuff it, Scott". He is particularly wounded by Bernard Levin's having accused the PII signatories of a crime "second only to murder". Mr Garel-Jones, three years a junior minister

and otherwise mainly famous for being the man who, Alan Clark confides, regularly calls him "Baby", goes on to excoriate journalism and to advise "pensioners against lending their lawn-mowers to Mr Levin".

But rage apart, what he seems to be saying is what they all say: that prior "governance" (a Harold Wilson word, that, mainly deployed when backs are to the wall) can only take place in an atmosphere of secure confidentiality. Also he says that the Scott inquiry should never have been set up: not least because Sir Richard has no experience of government or (even government) and otherwise mainly famous for being the man who, Alan Clark confides, regularly calls him "Baby", goes on to excoriate journalism and to advise "pensioners against lending their lawn-mowers to Mr Levin".

Occasionally, a politician past caring will utter sudden awful truths, illuminating that culture. It happened when Alan Clark said "Morality — I don't like the word" and blew aside all the careful fluff about "rigorous implementation of flexible interpretation" by scornfully observing "Bath, you can't break a guideline any more than you can break a blonde".

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Occasionally, a politician past caring will



## AFTER THE BOMB

Another ceasefire can never be enough

The Prime Minister made a powerful appeal for democracy and the peace process last night. His determination to strengthen the strained Anglo-Irish axis with a rapid summit should be applauded. But in his anxiety to see something survive after all the sacrifices and exertions of the past 18 months, he and his supporters should not lose sight of what last Friday has revealed about the republicans. Another ceasefire can never be enough.

Proof of a permanent commitment to peace will be required before any party can play a part in shaping Northern Ireland's future. There are signs that the IRA is already constructing a trap for the two Governments. Reports from the Republic suggest the IRA saw the attack on Docklands as a "one-off", a peremptory shock designed to jolt the British Government out of its complacency and into calling immediate all-party talks. Making points by killing innocents is as callously inhuman as it is counter-productive. Moreover, even if the British had wanted to call all-party talks, they could not have brought the Unionists to the table unless Sinn Féin had either decommissioned arms or embraced elections.

Nevertheless, there are rumours that Sinn Féin, after time has been allowed for the atrocity to sink in, or perhaps after another similar affront, will offer a new ceasefire. The republicans may calculate they will have made their point and proved their determination not to be trifled with. They could hope the two Governments will believe progress is impossible without the republicans and will invite Sinn Féin to full talks.

Extending that invitation would be dangerous folly. Another ceasefire would be, even more blatantly than before, a cynical tactic

It would be abandoned if talks went the wrong way. Any new commitment to peace would be a pretence unless it were accompanied by proof that the IRA had forsaken violence.

There are those who argue that peace is impossible without the agreement of Sinn Féin/IRA. In the Irish Republic the main opposition party, Fianna Fáil, has urged the Taoiseach, John Bruton, to talk to Sinn Féin. In America, Congressman John King, Chairman of the ad hoc committee for Irish affairs, assures us that "there is no question of a weakening of confidence in Gerry Adams."

"Clinton", he says, "recognises that Adams is essential to the peace process." The reverse is true. Mr Adams now appears redundant to the peace process. If he still speaks with any authority, it is as the emissary of men who deal in ultimatums, not negotiations. There is no room for the imperative rasp of the "blackmailers" at democratic discussions.

There was a peace process before the ceasefire and it can survive the resumption of war. All of Ulster's constitutional parties have moved from their entrenched positions. There may be the basis for a tentative consensus on restoring accountability to the Province while respecting diversity. The challenge for those, such as John Hume, who risked so much to give the republicans a chance to change is to work now with those whose commitment to democracy can never be questioned. The challenge for the Unionists is to reach out to moderate nationalist opinion and show imagination in embracing ideas which can build confidence. The IRA should not be allowed to set the pace.

## A MUFFLED CRY

Kohl should listen to Juppé and answer his plea

Alain Juppé set out for Bonn yesterday with the firm intention of underlining France's commitment to the 1999 target date for monetary union within the terms laid down by the Maastricht treaty. He made a brave fist, for an increasingly dubious German public, of talking up France's prospects of meeting the Maastricht criteria come trade union hell or unemployment high water. But far more important was a handful of words he let slip after meeting Helmut Kohl:

Despite desperate attempts after the event by his officials to put a different gloss on his words, there is no doubt that the French Prime Minister dropped, almost by chance, the first official French hint that, even if France were ready for its 1999 date with destiny, events outside France might compel a postponement of EMU.

M Juppé's personal determination to stick to the schedule is not in doubt. That is partly because of mounting anxiety in Paris that 1999 represents an opportunity, that might not recur, for France to escape the *de facto* mark zone in Europe. When the French Prime Minister told *Die Welt* yesterday of his fear that, if EMU were postponed just for a year, there would be further postponements and "then it will be 2010 and nothing will have been done", he reflected a constant anxiety in the French Establishment.

But if there is anything on which this same Establishment has always been unanimous, it is that EMU will work in France's interest only if a sufficient number of countries joins at the start to counterbalance the otherwise overwhelming power of the German monetary authorities in the future European Central Bank.

The telling moment in Bonn came, therefore, when M Juppé was asked about repeated market rumours of an overnight merger of the German and French currencies in a political "dawn raid" to force the EMU project through. In dismissing this out of hand — "it cannot be the case that France goes it alone with Germany" — he also drew attention to the Maastricht requirement that a sufficient number of countries must be

ready and willing to take part in the union by 1999. If that were not the case, he said, "There should be agreement on another date."

Outside the charmed circle of Franco-German summits, this is no more than a statement of obvious, recorded fact. It is just what Maastricht says. But inside the circle, it is heresy to hint that the treaty's contingency clause might have to be activated. Herr Kohl, who will not hear of it, has repressed those of his henchmen prepared to take a sceptical peek at the improbable EMU arithmetic. Bonn and Paris have stemmed the rising tide of doubt in Spain, Italy and other countries by repeating, mantra-like, that what matters is the leadership of the Franco-German couple.

Despite his battering by the unions and prospects of more to come, M Juppé continues to elevate hope over experience. France will be there on the day, he assured reporters yesterday — and "other countries will join us". Even Britain, he claimed, would "try to jump on the train" once convinced that EMU was for real.

The stubborn fact remains: an EMU of France, Germany and The Netherlands would be too small for France's comfort; and no serious economist now imagines that Belgium, Italy or Spain will begin to qualify by the end of 1997, the year on which their deficits, public debt and inflation performances are to be assessed. The whispering cannot be silenced in Paris as easily as Herr Kohl stifles it in Bonn.

M Juppé feels the pressure of knives in his back. But France has pinned so much on EMU — and sacrificed so much in growth and jobs to the Sisyphean task of meeting the Maastricht timetable — that, for a French Prime Minister to alter course on EMU with safety, he needs to be able to cite external factors beyond France's control. A muffled cry for help has been heard, from a Frenchman, and in Bonn. If Herr Kohl values the Franco-German axis as much as he professes to do, his ears should pick up the message.

## THERE TO BE FOUND

A chance to share in Count Alexander's good fortune

To unearth a hoard of coins or bring up from the black earth gold and jewellery entrusted generations ago to the darkness is a thrill that all can share. Rarely, however, do those who consign their wealth to the ground before fleeing invading armies have the chance to reclaim their heritage. They may dream of returning when the Roman legions have put down the Iceni, King Henry's agents finished combing the monasteries or the Royal Navy called off its pursuit of pirate plunderers. But few ever return from flight or exile. The secrets of their hidden treasure die with them.

The story of Count Alexander zu Lynar-Redern is one that will send a frisson through all those who attend the Sotheby's sale of his silver Odot service and his 19th-century Meissen porcelain. For not only are these precious pieces rare examples of the heirlooms once found in the great Prussian farnes, but they have only just been excavated from a forest in former East Germany where, for more than 40 years, Communist spy chiefs hunted over the ground where the treasure was buried. And it was Count Alexander himself who dug up his family's treasures that, 50 years earlier, he and his retainers had hastily consigned to the sandy soil as the guns echoed all around the Russians closed in.

The wonderment he experienced on seeing his silver again must have equalled that more famously felt by Howard Carter when he entered King Tutankhamun's tomb or, more recently, by Manolis Andronikos who found the bones of Philip of Macedon and all his funeral gold under a mound in Vergina. These men, however, brought to light things never meant to be seen again in the upper world. The terracotta horsemen who guarded the Chinese Emperor at Xian or the Viking boat at Sutton Hoo were interred to honour the departed chieftains; their discovery was a violation of a grave.

Treasure temporarily hidden is there to be found, however. The search is still on for looted Nazi gold and the famed Tsar's Amber Room. Often it is a farmer who stumbles on an amulet in his field. Under the law of treasure trove — which nationalised the wealth of the fleeing Romans, Catholic priests and Cavaliers — the Government has first claim. This has not inhibited enthusiasts with metal detectors, however. Nor has it stopped the burying of wealth by misers, criminals or publicists. Indeed, one of the most successful treasure hunts of recent times was organised by an author who buried a golden hare and sold thousands of books to those searching in its riddles for clues to the hare's location.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Penzington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Snags in House of Lords reform

From the Director of the Conservative Political Centre

Sir, Your leading article (February 8; see also letters, February 9) quite rightly states that the central requirement in constitutional debate is to distinguish clearly between evolutionary and radical change. However, it is surely not as obvious as you seek to imply that the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, and the curbing of the rights of hereditary peers, could form part of an evolutionary approach.

The former would mean that authority now vested in Parliament would pass to the courts; the latter would remove from the Upper House the principal component which it has had since its start in the Middle Ages.

Since the Labour Party refuses to spell out its plans for an elected second chamber, there is an acute danger that the outcome would be a purely nominated Upper House, creating in effect the largest quango in the land (indeed it is hard to suppress the suspicion that it is Labour's real aim).

Yours faithfully,  
ALISTAIR B. COOKE,  
Director,  
Conservative Political Centre,  
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1.

From Earl Russell

Sir, Liberal Democrats are not about to go into a last-ditch defence of the hereditary peerage. Nevertheless, before we can be persuaded that Tony Blair's one-clause Bill is the right way to tackle the question, many of us want reassurance about two substantial misgivings.

First, we need to be reassured that Labour understands that the overarching purpose of constitutional reform is to reduce the power of the Executive. The debate on the Scott report has shown how terrifyingly urgent this task is.

When we find Labour beginning the task of constitutional reform by a measure which will strengthen the power of the Labour Prime Minister then, like people going to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head, we feel the need to ask whether we are going to the right direction.

Secondly, the hereditary peers in a small, illogical and anomalous way do check the power of the Executive. We would therefore want to find some way of filling the gap which their abolition would create. This is why it would be very difficult to tackle the composition of the Lords without looking at its powers.

Yours faithfully,  
RUSSELL,  
House of Lords.  
February 9.

From Lord Stanley of Alderley

Sir, Although I am not against reform of the hereditary element of the Upper House, the appointment by patronage that Mr Blair favours would destroy its independence.

Over the past 20 years I have, on numerous occasions, had to ask their lordships if a particular amendment, always rural-based, was correct. I have never tried to persuade a peer appointed by party patronage to vote against his party; it would be incorrect and impolite to do so.

However, I have no qualms about asking an hereditary peer to break ranks — most own no allegiance but to their conscience.

Yours faithfully,  
STANLEY OF ALDERLEY,  
Trysgwyn Fawr,  
Rhosyronen, Ammanw, Anglesey.  
February 10.

From Mr C. R. Holman

Sir, Peers are disbarred from sitting as members of the House of Commons. In this situation the House of Lords provides the hereditary and the appointed peers with their only voice in the government of this country. To deny any citizen of the United Kingdom the right to participate in the processes of government of this country due to an accident of birth is probably even more undemocratic than the present arrangement.

Any legislation for the reform of the House of Lords must grant those who are then barred from the Upper House the right to stand for election in the Lower House of Parliament, without first having to renounce their peerage.

Yours etc.  
C. R. HOLMAN,  
14a Bilton Road,  
Rugby, Warwickshire.

On the qui vive

From Mrs Marianne Fry

Sir, You reported on February 5 that a portrait of Elizabeth I is believed by a psychiatrist to reveal a childhood of abuse.

It would surely be remarkable if the gaze of a girl whose father had been beheaded both her mother and her stepmother did not show "frozen watchfulness" and "worness".

Yours faithfully,  
MARIANNE FRY,  
Hollies House,  
Booton, Norfolk.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

### Educational excellence as priority

From Mr Michael Hart

Sir, For once it is difficult to agree with Simon Jenkins ("Half a league backward", February 9). Of course league tables are highly questionable, but Ofsted evidence on low standards, unsatisfactory lessons and poor teachers (report and leading article, February 6), far from being useless, has vitally contributed to putting education finally near the top of the political agenda.

For years both main political parties, though for very different reasons, have concealed from the public the plain fact that many of our 16-year-olds are worse educated than children of comparable age in most European and several overseas countries.

Our provision for nursery and vocational education is quite inadequate. The former requires money, the latter a greater contribution from industry.

There is little point in national league tables, particularly for something like 21,000 primary schools, the sheer magnitude of which is mind-boggling in its bureaucracy, not to mention its considerable cost.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL de GRUCHY,  
General Secretary,  
NASUWT,  
5 King Street, Covent Garden, WC2.

February 8.

From the Headmaster of Crofton Junior School

Sir, I feel uncomfortable with Simon Jenkins's comments about Crofton School's standard for two reasons: firstly, because there are many who do not only dare to say that part of our success is the environment from which we draw children but say so loudly.

However, that is only part of the background to our success. Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, in his letter to me made clear that we are "excellent" when judged against "schools in similar circumstances". Our teachers might feel to say that not only are the media constantly highlighting failures in the system but are now knocking them when they achieve excellence.

Please don't seek to find reasons for our excellence: it is because teachers teach well.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL THOMAS,  
Headmaster,  
Crofton Junior School,  
Towncourt Lane,  
Orpington, Kent.

From Mr A. F. West

Sir, In the debate that has rightly followed from the report by Chris Woodhead it should be remembered that some schools, my own included, have yet to be inspected by Ofsted.

Yours faithfully,  
A. F. WEST  
(Chairman of Governors),  
Langley Grammar School,  
Langley, Berkshire.  
February 7.

### Arms trade

From the Bishop of Coventry and others

Sir, I share Simon Jenkins's assessment that inspection and league tables constitute management by public humiliation and that this may be the result of mismanagement over many years. However, even if headteachers and governors had been more assiduous in rootling out incompetence, they might not have been able to replace dismised teachers with anyone better.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers has called for more than 20 years for a

trade. The codes seek to introduce a more responsible, principled approach to the sale of weapons and prevent exports to countries with poor human rights records, regions of ten-year-old dictatorships and military aggressors.

We call on the UK Government to take the opportunity of the forthcoming intergovernmental conference to press for the introduction into the Maastricht treaty of a European code of conduct on the arms trade.

We must learn from the Matrix-Churchill affair and never again allow short-term commercial gain to override international peace and security.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON COVENTRY,  
DAVID LIVERPOOL,  
RICHARD OXON:  
Safer World,  
33-34 Alfred Place, WC1.  
February 12.

### Alternative medicine

From Dr J. K. Mathews

Sir, While agreeing with most of Jeremy Lauance's article on alternative medicine, "An honest alternative, or just magic?" (February 9; see also letters, February 8), I have to take issue with his final sentence that "illness is what doctors have forgotten about".

The problem is not that doctors have forgotten about illness but that patients have forgotten what "illness" is.

Too much of most general practitioners' time is now spent dealing with relatively minor conditions which do not require medical intervention. Rehabilitation may be all that is necessary, but this does not have to be given by a health professional with the level of skill and training of a general practitioner.

Only when patients, and alas some of the medical profession, recognise the valuable role that often less highly trained health professionals can play in basic health advice and reassurance will doctors again have the time to deal with what would medically be regarded as illness.

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC RATCLIFFE,  
7 The Towers,  
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Doctors have not forgotten about ill-

ness; they unfortunately are not being given sufficient time to practise medicine.

Yours faithfully,  
J. K. MATHEWS,  
Helleston Medical Practice,  
343 Resepharn Road,  
Helleston, Norwich, Norfolk.

February 7.

From Mr Eric Ratcliffe

Sir, Your leading article of February 5, mentioning the Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis, throws back my memory to what must have been a very early use of hypnosis in professional dentistry.

My father, a Twickenham dentist, performed two extractions about 1929 on a hypnotised patient, who had none of the after-effects of gas anaesthesia and felt no pain.

I was in those days, as a small boy, sometimes employed as a restraining weight on the ankles of patients, who could move violently under gas. Under hypnosis, the patient remained completely calm.

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC RATCLIFFE,  
7 The Towers,  
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

February 7.



## OBITUARIES

## GERALD SAVORY

Gerald Savory, playwright and former Head of Plays at BBC Television, died on February 9. He was born on November 17, 1909.

GERALD SAVORY was the young playwright who enchanted West End audiences during the late 1930s with a light suburban comedy entitled *George and Margaret*. The play ran for two years at Wyndham's Theatre and clocked up an impressive 799 performances. It was a phenomenal triumph for the youthful Savory, and a sophisticated piece of writing which sparked enthusiastic comparisons with Terence Rattigan and Noel Coward. His humour, as *The Times* critic noted in 1937, arose not so much from original situation, or even particularly from wit, as from "a kind of unfailing aptness and even exaggeration of the commonplace".

The H. M. Tennent impresario Hugh ("Binkie") Beaumont, whose organisation had profited enormously from the play's success, asked Noel Coward to take it to Broadway. But Coward mistakenly had parts of it rewritten — for which he always blamed himself — and the play suffered the added misfortune of appearing in the same Broadway season as Rattigan's *French Without Tears*. It ran for barely two months in New York and never recuperated the success of its long London run.

That hardly mattered to Savory, whose name was made in Britain, and who became known ever afterwards — irritatingly for him, perhaps, considering his subsequent elevation to be head



of BBC plays — as the man who had written *George and Margaret*.

Gerald Douglas Savory was the son of two actors, both of whom were reluctant to see their son join them in such a precarious profession. He was educated at Bradfield College, and then, having failed in his first jobs as a stockbroker's clerk and a private tutor, joined his parents on the boards. He made his professional debut at the Playhouse in Whitley Bay in 1931 as Mr Smith in *It Pays to Advertise*. The 1930s were spent learning his craft in repertory companies in Hull, Brighton and Bournemouth, and in touring Canada and Australia with his mother, a popular actress named Grace Lane.

*George and Margaret* was his first play and was written while he was on

tour. It concerned the frustrations of a liberal Hampstead family, slowly simmering to boiling point, as they wait for the George and Margaret of the title to arrive (they never do). It was demonstrably an actor's piece of writing, full of excellent lines and with genuine opportunities for light comic performances. It was tried out by the Repertory Players, and was then spotted by Binkie Beaumont, who brought it, in a new production, to Wyndham's and made it his first big commercial success. A film version followed in 1940, by which time Savory had been lured to the Hollywood studios by Alfred Hitchcock, and he became an American citizen.

He was soon bored, however, rewriting other people's scripts and a crisis point was reached when he was sent the script for *Ninotchka*. He was no fan of either the writing or the leading actress — Greta Garbo — and he marched into his boss's office to make clear that he could not bear "that Swedish woman". His head of department politely suggested that Savory should leave, and by the time he had retraced his steps to his own office, Savory found his name had been struck off the door. A then little-known writer called Billy Wilder took over the project in his place.

Savory meanwhile directed summer stock, and gave Grace Kelly one of her first jobs. She was grateful and introduced him to her father, Jack Kelly, who owned television stations in Chicago. By this means Savory entered the highly unpredictable world of live television, overseeing the transmission of plays five nights a week.

He continued to write plays, at the rate of almost one a year in the early days. The second, *Good and Proper* (1939), was about an unhappy married couple, and contained an excellent part for Savory's mother. It was the success of *A Likely Tale* (1936) at the Globe, however, starring Robert Morley and Margaret Rutherford, which prompted his return to London.

Savory's experience in American television led to an appointment first at Granada TV in 1964 as executive producer, then at the BBC, as head of plays, 1965-72. This was a period when the production of new drama was a high priority in the corporation — ABC and Granada had set the pace — and Savory's department had a lot of catching-up to do. Projects during his tenure included *The Sir Wives of Henry VIII*, *Elizabeth R* and *Cathy Come Home*. In 1975 there was the monumental *Churchill's People*, based on Winston Churchill's *History of the English-Speaking Peoples*.

After leaving the plays department, and with no official post, Savory worked on whatever interested him. There was an adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* for BBC2 in 1976, work for Thames in the late 1970s on *Nancy Mitford's Love in a Cold Climate*; and an adaptation of E. F. Benson's *Mapp and Lucia*, for London Weekend Television.

Savory was married four times. His first marriage ended in divorce, and his second and third wives predeceased him. He is survived by his fourth wife, the actress Sheila Bremner, whom he married in 1970, and by a stepson from that marriage.

## MERCER ELLINGTON

Mercer Ellington, jazz trumpeter, composer and bandleader, died in Copenhagen on February 8 aged 76. He was born in Washington DC on March 11, 1919.

DESPITE considerable achievements as a musician in his own right, Mercer Ellington's career was inextricably bound up with that of his father, Duke. Mercer played the trumpet in his father's band from 1935 until 1974, and was his copyist and road manager for longer than that. He also conducted whenever his father was indisposed or absent. Some of the band's best-known hits (including *Things Ain't What They Used To Be* from 1941) were written by Mercer, yet for the most part he assumed a background role, seldom publicly acknowledged by his father.

The relationship between father and son was complex, at its worst becoming what Mercer described as a "cold war", but at its best leading to their collaboration on the balle *Three Black Kings* during Duke's final illness and stay in hospital. It was never easy for Mercer to establish his independence as a musician, even after his father's death in 1974, when Mercer took over the Ellington Orchestra. In his autobiography, Duke Ellington wrote: "My son... is dedicated to maintaining the lustre of his father's image."

Mercer Kennedy Ellington was born before his father became famous. When his mother, Edna, separated from his father in the late 1920s he moved to New York with his grandparents, who made a home for the increasingly successful Duke in Edgecombe Avenue, Harlem. Mercer grew up with his father's younger sister Ruth, and he learnt the rudiments of composition listening half-awake to his father playing the piano in the small hours of the morning.

Mercer showed a talent for composition, helped by his father: "He'd leave me problems to solve by the time he got



back... he never put a note down, but he scratched out what was in poor taste."

Mercer then entered the Academy of Musical Art to study composition, saxophone and trumpet.

Duke's band recorded Mercer's compositions from the late 1930s, but when Mercer formed his own band in 1939, despite his father's advice to capitalise on his name and play Duke's music, Mercer steadfastly refused. After a short spell in the Services with Sy Oliver's US Army Band, Mercer led his own group for much of the 1940s, issuing his first discs in 1946. The pianist on those records was the English critic Leonard Feather, who formed a record company with Mercer in the early 1950s.

Mercer became a successful arranger, producer and manager, and he went on to produce record sessions for the rest of his life, including one with Cleo Laine only last year. He joined Cootie Williams's band in the 1950s as trumpeter and road manager.

He made some excellent recordings with his late father's band, including his own extended suite *Music Is My Mistress*. He supervised the acquisition by the Smithsonian Institution of the Ellington archive of scores, and similarly passed the recorded legacy to Danish Radio.

He is survived by two daughters and two sons, including the guitarist Edward Ellington II.

## THE HON HONOR EARL

The Hon Honore Earl, portrait painter, died on February 2 aged 94. She was born on March 24, 1901.



ENLIVENING patrician elegance with a vigorous dash of bohemian eccentricity, Honore Earl breezed through the upper echelons of society garnering subjects for her painter's brush. Her pastel portraits caught the expressions of the most eminent people of her day, including four generations of the Royal Family and some of the most dazzling stars of stage and screen.

But though herself ravishingly beautiful, Honore Earl found merely pretty features "boring" to paint. She preferred faces of character and often chose as her subjects her cleaning lady, down-and-outs on the London streets, and prostitutes and criminals whom she came to know during her many years of service as a prison visitor.

But it was in the portraiture of children — an area from which most artists shy — that Honore Earl specialised. Again she chose her subjects from across the widest spectrum of society, her subjects ranging from Peter Phillips, the Queen's first grandchild, to Christopher, a severely crippled Barnardo orphan. She

had a great empathy with children and knew how to keep them alert while they sat. Often she would sketch with one hand while playing with glove puppets in the other or making lines with a comb and piece of paper.

Perhaps her understanding of children was born of the lovelessness which she herself had felt as a child. Her father Viscount Maugham, a lawyer,

uncle, hoping perhaps to elicit a denial. But the aged Somerse Maugham stammered in reply: "He is p-p-p correct. I think he is the most dearest old gentleman."

Somerse Maugham did not take to Honore either, perhaps offended by her childlike tactlessness — she once broached in his presence the forbidden subject of his liaison with another man. Honore described herself as her uncle's "least favourite niece". But though this did not worry her unduly — she hated the dreary holidays spent with him at Cap Ferat — she was stricken by the knowledge that she was also a disappointment to her mother, whom she adored. While Honore's brother and two sisters were all very bright, Honore had dyslexia, a condition that had not yet been recognised at that time. She was always to remember sobbing her heart out over *Rabbit Without Tears*, pronouncing the word god instead of dog, while her French governess berated her for her stupidity.

It was only when she discovered her talent for drawing that her life changed. "She's half-witted in most ways, but she draws," everybody said. Art became Honore's lifeline, and even in old age she would still confess that it was only

when drawing that she felt a complete confidence.

In 1937 Honore Earl became a prison visitor "I have seen so many tragic people whose misery could have been avoided by the right treatment," she said. Forming close friendships with prisoners in Holloway and in girls' borstals she realised for the first time that "great good could coexist with great evil, and without the good being impaired."

Honore Earl was always to remain broad-minded in her outlook. Indeed her brother Robin — a quirky figure who lived a life of reckless extravagance and of a certain disrepute — dedicated his book about homosexuality *The Wrong People* to her, because he considered her the most liberal member of his family.

Throughout her life she combined her talent for painting — a skill which she compared to that of a performing seal ("I have learnt how to do certain tricks") — with charitable work. During the war she fought to draw attention to the waste of refugee talent to the war effort and raised funds for the All-Nations Voluntary Service League by selling her works.

But, though she supported a wide range of charities, her principal concern was for underprivileged children. The proceeds of her exhibitions were donated to, among other causes, the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Child, Save the Children, and the Actors' Orphanage. For this last she did portraits of more than 75 stage and film stars. She later followed it with an exhibition called *Children of the Stars*, the proceeds of which went to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Honore Earl also founded and acted as chairman of the Young Musicians Fund, a charity to help young people who showed outstanding musical ability but whose parents were not in a position to pay for tuition.

Though Honore Earl continued to work into old age, she declared that she "looked forward like anything to dying". A lifelong member of the College of Psychic Studies, she had a great interest in the spirit world and believed herself to have been visited by wraiths from the afterlife.

Honore Earl's husband Sebastian predeceased her. She is survived by a son.

## TREVOR RUSSELL-COBB

Trevor Russell-Cobb, public relations consultant and bibliophile, died on January 31 aged 71. He was born on February 3, 1918.



whom he took with him when he set up his own public relations company some ten years later.

Russell-Cobb, always his own man, was also and *par excellence* a club man — not in the modern sense (he did not belong to the Garrick, for instance) but in the 18th-century mode. He subscribed to countless groups and learned societies: notably to the Royal Society of Arts, of which he was treasurer for five years, the Johnson Society, the William Morris Society, the Foundation for Ephemera Studies and the Omar Khayyam Club. For 25 years he was a director of the English Chamber Orchestra and he was a trustee of the Sir John Soane's Museum until his death.

More than all else, Russell-Cobb loved to talk — about words, ideas, music, literature, especially about Dr Johnson, whom he came to resemble. In conversation he usually chose to take the contrary, unexpected view, simply for the fun of it; he assumed in his companions a flatteringly wide knowledge, both general and esoteric, and if they failed to measure up he would enlighten them with grace as well as wit. In the preface to *Paying the Piper* he quoted Man Ray: "I have made some of my listeners think, and it sometimes makes them angry, and it has also made others angry, and it has made them think." In Trevor Russell-Cobb's case, for "angry" read happy.

Trevor Russell-Cobb is survived by a son and daughter of his first marriage to Suzanne, who also survives him, and by two sons of his second wife, Nan, who died in 1979.

## ON THIS DAY

February 13, 1939

On the Frontier was one of the three plays W.H. Auden wrote in collaboration with Christopher Isherwood in the 1930s — the others were The Dog Beneath the Skin and The Ascend of F.D.

with seeing eyes, and Mr. Ernest Milton is enabled to draw a portrait of a human being with humour in its terrors and truth in its extravagances.

Two States, Ostraria and Westland, go to war. The follies of extreme nationalism, the delusions and sufferings of the peoples, the deadly similarity of propaganda, from whatever source, the uselessness of warlike effort — all these are set out in scenes adroitly interlocked, which carry the audience from a small home in one country to a like home in the other, or from the trenches into the presence of a dictator. The characters are seldom allowed to remain impersonal symbols, but are endowed with enough individuality and life to enable recitation to cease and acting to begin... The point to remark about the play as a whole is that, altogether apart from its merits or demerits as propaganda, it has a considerable spark of theatrical life, and can be watched with continuous interest even by those who do not come to a theatre in the same spirit in which they attend a political meeting.

## FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

LORENZ — The funeral of Christopher Lorenz, died on Friday 9th February at St Michael's Church, The Grove, Highgate, London NW11. Burial 11.30 am.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

LORENZ — A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Peter Anderson will be held at St Nicholas Church, St. John's Wood, NW8, on Saturday 2nd March, 11.30 am.

OSHAHOMI — There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Oshahomi Oshahomi, died on Wednesday 13th March in St Etheldreda's Church, Finsbury, London EC1. Burial 11.30 am.

STANLEY — A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Christopher de Courcey Stanley will be held at the Church of St. Barnabas, Dublin, on Thursday, March 14th 1996 at 11.30 am.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

COOPER — Burial will be held on Saturday 2nd March, 1996. Mourners are invited to the service at St. Michael's Church, St. John's Wood, NW8, on Saturday 2nd March, 11.30 am.

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## Search for directors is made easier

TWO registers of non-executive directors for smaller companies have been launched, one by Kingston Smith, the chartered accountant, the second by the Institute of Directors.

Potential directors will not have to pay a charge to appear in the Kingston Smith Gro-NED register, but they will be screened. Companies will be provided with two or three suitable candidates for a fee of £500 plus VAT.

The IoD Directors Direct service will provide small firms with the CVs of suitable candidates. The service costs £350 plus VAT. David Treadwell, IoD head of board appointments, said: "An independent voice on a board, whatever the size of the company, enhances good decision-making which ultimately leads to improved profitability. Essentially the role is to bring outside objectivity to what can so easily become a cosy and possibly complacent executive team."

Michael Snyder, Kingston Smith senior partner, said: "Our expectation is that if more smaller companies take the right kind of non-executives on to their board, it will contribute to a healthy and more successful small business sector." He added that companies with non-executive directors produce significantly higher profit margins and that the most successful entrepreneurs are those that are open-minded and listen to outside advice.

He adds: "Applicants for the Gro-NED register must have direct experience of running smaller businesses, or have been closely involved in advising them. A non-executive director in a smaller company must be of real practical value and prove their worth in a measurable way. In big companies they often have a policeman-like role, keeping an eye on the executives on behalf of the shareholders."

Mr Snyder said non-executive directors would expect annual fees starting at £5,000 and would attend monthly board meetings and be available for ad hoc advice and consultation.

Further information from: Kingston Smith, Devonshire House, 146, Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JX, or from the IoD board appointments on 0171-451 3259.

RODNEY HOBSON

# A hard journey to success in the world of travel

Barbara Trigg  
meets a woman who  
is now passing on  
her determination to  
succeed to others

Personal tragedy drove Alpa Shah into business on her own. After she and her husband arrived in Britain from Kenya in 1988, she obtained work as a systems analyst in a travel agency. Then in 1991 she was made redundant. Shortly afterwards her husband died on a visit to the US to make plans for the family to settle there. She was left with a five-year-old son and no income.

"I wanted to work, but a nine-to-five job was out of the question," said Ms Shah. She particularly did not want to leave her son, Vikesh, in the care of someone else so soon after he had lost his father. Uncertain of what to do, she attended a two-week business course specifically for women run by the Ealing Co-operative Development Agency, which gave her advice on how to set up in business. She decided to open a travel agency from home.

First she bought a limited company "off the shelf". Then with a borrowed desk and chair, a typewriter and an arrangement to use someone else's fax, she started trading as Alvic Hotel Reservation Services. She did not want to be just any travel agent and decided to specialise in the music industry. She tried to persuade a family friend, who was a road manager in

the industry, to give her a chance to handle travel arrangements. She reasoned that people had to be given an opportunity or there would never be any new companies. Eventually he agreed.

Her first show was *Hollywood and Broadway*, starring Lorna Luft and Wayne Sleep. She made all the travel arrangements for them and an entourage of 30 people on a six-week tour. "It was a real test," she said. "Hotels wanted pre-payment and no one would lend me the money. I had to convince hotel managers that my business was credible with just a business plan.

British Telecom and the Welsh Office, with financial help from the European Regional Development Fund, the service has the support of Tees, enterprise agencies and local authorities. Firms wanting advice on topics including premises, finance, export opportunities and recruiting staff can contact an adviser familiar with the caller's local area. More than 48,000 new businesses have been set up in Wales during the past 12 years and one in seven of the workforce now runs his/her own business. The Business Connect number, which is charged at local rate, is 0345 969 798.

□ Exporters aiming for editorial coverage in foreign newspapers can obtain help from the Central Office of Information. A new service includes writing by a professional journalist, translation, processing of photographs and distribution to the foreign press through UK diplomatic posts. The cost is £50 for the first country and £40 for each additional one. Contact: Simon Holder on 0171-261 8422.

□ A helpline for small businesses has been launched in Wales by



"Never give up": the motto that led Alpa Shah to her own travel agency at Alperton, west London

the music industry was totally male-dominated. Although I did not face racial discrimination, I faced discrimination because I am a woman. But I made up my mind: never in my life will I give up." By then she had decided her selling point would be a 24-hour service to meet the late-night requirements of the entertainment industry.

Her first client took her at her word and rang at 2.30am to make changes to the travel arrangements. At the end of the tour they were so satisfied that they introduced her to other promoters — and she was on her way. One of her

early clients was the London Philharmonic Orchestra, which responded with a mailshot. It has stayed with her ever since. Others include Elaine Paige, Philip Schofield and pop groups. In 1994 she took on three staff. Four months ago the company expanded to offer travel services to the public and moved into premises in Alperton, west London. Last May she organised a seminar to help women to set up in business. It was attended by 110 women, two of whom have followed her lead.

Alvic Travel is on 081 900 9689

British Telecom and the Welsh Office, with financial help from the European Regional Development Fund. The service has the support of Tees, enterprise agencies and local authorities. Firms wanting advice on topics including premises, finance, export opportunities and recruiting staff can contact an adviser familiar with the caller's local area. More than 48,000 new businesses have been set up in Wales during the past 12 years and one in seven of the workforce now runs his/her own business. The Business Connect number, which is charged at local rate, is 0345 969 798.

□ A one-day conference on Labour and small and medium enterprises will be addressed by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, Margaret Beckett, the DTI Shadow Minister, and Barbara Roche, the Opposition spokeswoman on small firms, at the Gibson Hall, London, on March 20. Other speakers include

Tim Melville-Ross from the Institute of Directors and Ian Peter of NatWest Bank. Details from Neil Stewart Associates, 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BL.

□ The national franchise exhibition will be held at the NEC, Birmingham from October 4 to 6. The show has been moved to a larger hall after heavy advance bookings at the end of last year.

□ *Tendering for Government Contracts*, the DTI guide advises small businesses on selling to the public sector, with guidelines on

## Shortfall in training for managers 'hitting small firms'

BY SALLY WATTS

THE training needs of small firms are not being met, according to a report by a Cambridge academic. Much of what is on offer is geared to large companies and seen by owner-managers as far too theoretical. Government-provided training is often unsuitable.

The report, *Developing Managers for the Stand-Alone Business*, shows there is not yet a developed market for training in this sector. Barry Weale, the author, until recently fellow in Management Studies at Downing College, believes the disadvantage to small firms is of concern because they depend entirely on the manager's skill and professionalism.

Although the sector is widely recognised as underpinning the economy, it may be underperforming significantly through lack of vital skills, the report suggests.

Owner-managers in whom all the roles and prospects of business are concentrated, are specially vulnerable and need support.

The survey shows the problems small businesses face in contrast to corporate concerns: early-fragility, dependence on a small number of people, shortage of resources, difficulty in raising finance, emphasis on current and short-term priorities, a need for versatility and skills which change with growth and a demand for access to external advice and assistance.

Nearly half the managers interviewed do not find training effective, especially in recruitment and planning. Yet most managers see training as a strategic investment, provided it gives value for money, is at the right level and is practical. Cost is a big concern for firms of between 25-50 employees.

□ Exports, which attracted 140 companies.

□ The business angels service piloted by National Westminster Bank in the North West and the Thames Valley has been extended to the whole country. The bank estimates that private investors wishing to back small firms have funds totalling £24 million.

□ *Hington Publishing* has produced a book, *The Greatest Guide to Home-Based Business*, the third in a series of guides for small businesses. Copies cost £7.95 from W.H. Smith.

Those with fewer than 20 regard £50 a day as the maximum. Those with up to 100 employees say £100. Not surprisingly, managers favour free or subsidised training or tax concessions, plus readily available advice.

Training averages 2-3½ days a year. About 20 per cent have more than seven days; a quarter of firms with fewer than 200 have none. Advice on training is mainly from the training providers themselves and from training and enterprise councils, but smaller firms seek advice from professional institutions, personal contacts, accountants or banks rather than Tecs, "which still have to establish their credentials".

Programmes should group participants according to their business's stage of development, combine personal and business development, respect managers' knowledge of their firm and emphasise mutual help and networking. Programmes are best held after the working day, with a light buffer provided, for three hours, once a week for ten weeks.



"It's from my bank manager"

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Long-time leader steers his side back into first place with several key transfers

# James kicks out Keegan to make room at the top

Nobody said you got to the top in football management by being afraid to make decisions. Kevin James, the man responsible for Kevin Kickers, clearly has the ruthless touch required.

After making much of the early running in Interactive Team Football (ITF), Kevin Kickers were headed for the lead by Gohil Gods 65, one of 80 plus teams entered by the two Gohil brothers from London. James realised he needed to regain the impetus from somewhere, and promptly axed both Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, and Keegan's striking mainstay, Les Ferdinand. The ploy worked.

Mr James reasoned: "Both players had been in my side throughout, but I reckoned that now was the time to make the change with Newcastle no longer in the FA Cup."

So Keegan and Ferdinand were sent packing, and replaced by Dave Merrington, of Southampton, and Robbie Fowler, of Liverpool.

"Southampton have some important games coming up which I think they might come through well. And, most importantly, they are still in the FA Cup. I am not saying that the competition will be won and lost in the Cup, but it is just one of the very important elements that go to succeeding at ITF."

Mr James has plenty of praise to offer for the way that ITF is scored and is a firm believer that it is a competition where skill plays at least as big a part as chance.

"I must watch what I say but in ITF I am sure that you can think, plan and study your way to an improved position. That said, luck still plays its part such as when Didić, of QPR, scored that deflected goal against Liverpool the other day."

"Thousands of people will have Liverpool defenders in their side and that shot cost them the points for a clean sheet."

Mr James recently appeared on Sky TV with fellow ITF managers, Raj Gohil and



Steve Lyons. He was impressed, in particular, with Mr Gohil.

"Raj Gohil struck me as a shrewd customer and a man who won't go down without a fight. I think if it comes down to the wire in the competition, I might ask Raj if he wants to split the prize and have done with it. There is nothing for second in this game."

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must

replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer before the following week.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 59 pence per minute (cheap rate), 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you

pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Alan Stubbs of Bolton Wanderers, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £7.5 million on Dennis Bergkamp - but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Kevin Kickers making a bid for the winning line, it is time for you to delve into the transfer market?

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Sheringham, of Tottenham Hotspur, left, has made defenders like Aston Villa's McGrath wince on his way to 63 points as an ITF striker

**HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF**  
All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	Player	Scored goal
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scored goal
Scored goal	3pts	All players
Full back/Central defender	2pts	Apparatus
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager
Scored goal	2pts	Team wins
Midfield player	1pt	Team draws
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Scored goal
Scored goal	2pts	

\* must have played for 10 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

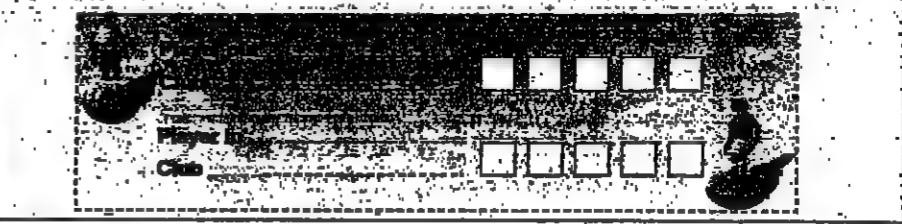
POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	Player	Scored goal
Concedes goal	2pts	Booked
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Missed penalty
Concedes goal	1pt	Scored own goal
All players	3pts	Manager
Sent off	3pts	Team losses

\* must have played for 10 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a full-back for a full-back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any over-spending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he thus ceases to score for you.



THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF			
Code	Player	IN	Club
50805	F Aspira	Club	Newcastle
Value £5.5m			
OUT			
There are no outgoing transfers in ITF this week			

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	1st
1	Kevin Kickers	(K James)	483
2	Gohil Gods 65	(Mr B Gohil)	482
3	James Boys Six	(M L Jones)	466
4		(J Nicholl)	444
5	Stevens Lions 6	(S Brewer)	443
6	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	441
7	Teddy Five	(Mr B Barr)	441
8	Kaspers Fire	(E Kisby)	440
9	Dwaynes Dribblers	(A Philcox)	437
10	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	435
11	Fergies Fury	(P Simpson)	434
12	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Connolly)	433
13	Stevens Lions 1	(S Brewer)	432
14	Aberspurs	(D Ward)	431
15	Laytons Lions	(R Layton)	430
16	Apollo 2	(S Layton)	430
17	Jones Lions 7	(S Layton)	429
18	Jessiekes Dribbles 4	(Mr A Neillson)	429
19	Smart And Stubbis	(K Booth)	428
20	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	427
21	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donavan)	427
22	Percys Progress	(P Percis)	427
23	Rosies Supers	(P Sutton)	427
24	Fair Fair Flappers	(C Woodward)	425
25	Psycho And Smither	(K Booth)	425
26	Stevens Lions 8	(S Brewer)	424
27	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	423
28	Hobby One	(A Brown)	422
29	Burnell United	(R Bartson)	422
30	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P Johnson)	422
31	Warren Wizards	(J Buckley)	422
32	Salzburg United	(Mr P Davies)	422
33	Clip N' Dale XI	(Mrs E L Arrowsmith)	420
34	The Good Bad & Ugly	(J Boddy)	420
35	Estuary	(P Giles)	419
36	Baf's Team	(B Ghitman)	419
37	Who Needs Mark	(N Perisich)	417
38	Turners Earmers	(P Turner)	416
39	Jones Boys Four	(L M Jones)	416
40	No Sun Today	(N Webb)	415
41	Nato Lions	(B Evans)	415
42	Commanding Eleven	(J Sanderson)	415
43	Rescue City 2	(G Pedler)	415
44	The Likely Lads	(M G Banks)	414
45	Monster Monsters	(M Parish)	414
46	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	414
47	Remington Rovers	(N A Woodroffe)	413
48	Carromon Athem	(Mr J Reader)	413
49	The Young Gungs	(B Shepherd)	412
50	No Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	412
51	Cerling XI	(P Parise)	412
52	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	412
53	Wohnotheater	(K Booth)	411
54	Patrick Thitite	(O Nicola)	411
55	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	410
56	Twilight United	(P Davison)	410
57	Albermarle Town	(J Hedges)	410
58	Justizline	(A Kent)	410
59	The Wee One Too	(A Nelson)	410
60	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	409
61	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	408
62	Bamby's Babes	(T Burns)	408
63	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podsur)	407
64	The Doug Hutchies	(W Doyle)	407
65	Evans Men	(A Boyland)	406
66	Tonya All Stars	(Mr P McDowell)	406
67	The Mind Boogies	(A Boyland)	406

**FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING**

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 774 796

Call cost (per minute)  
39p cheap rate,  
49p other times. Rep. 56p

67	Riverside Raiders	(R A Knowles)	408
68	Stevens All Stars	(J Allen)	405
69	Jessmond 1850	(S Murray)	405
70	Notts Rangers	(Mr A G W Whyte)	405
71	Juggy Thrills	(J Bruce)	405
72	Purcell Rangers	(P Purcell)	405
73	The Magdalans	(A Creagan)	405
74	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	404
75	Clare Ducks	(T Collier)	404
76	Steve's Scorers	(S Tinkler)	403
77	The Conjurors	(Mr D J Farmer)	403
78	Solo Boing Boing	(T Home)	403
79	Poundstone Poplars	(J Pates)	403
80	C	(M Corless)	403
81	Abenber Villa	(R A Knowles)	402
82	Rescue City	(J Sanderson)	402
83	Guildford Marching	(Mr M Herne)	402
84	Gatto Nero FC	(E Scatella)	402
85	Reggie's Reds	(Mr J Bridge)	402
86	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	402
87	Pete's Star Turn	(Mr P Macey)	402
88	Real Machines FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	402
89	Nigels Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	402
90	It's A Magic Game	(K Boddy)	402
91	Sky Blue Royles	(R G Foster)	402
92	Findly City	(J Hamilton)	401
93	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	401
94	The Entertainers	(L Rappe)	401
95	Le Socca	(J Aldous)	400
96	Kix Kickers	(G Sutton)	400
97	Borussia Düsseldorf	(Kevin Smith)	400
98	Langton Longshots	(N Thompson)	400
99	Abercavenny Rovers	(S Smith)	400
100	Jacobsdale FC	(Mr A Jacobson)	40

**ARTS 36-38**

Why Julian Spalding won't have dead sheep in his gallery

**LAW 31,33**

Scott: an unfair attack on a fair judge

**SPORT 39-44**

Capriati facing toughest return of her career

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Pages 42,43

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13 1996

## Names ready to dismiss £2.8bn offer

By ROBERT MILLER

LLOYD'S names, whose assets have traditionally supported the 300-year-old insurance market, are set to reject a £2.8 billion settlement offer to end years of litigation and cap the cost of members' liabilities. Failure to reach an agreement could force Lloyd's of London to stop writing new business.

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, said that yesterday's proposals, contained in the Reconstruction and Renewal document, represented "the best and most pragmatic framework" for a final settlement for tens of thousands of names, who have suffered cumulative losses of nearly £12 billion since 1987. The terms of the final offer will be made to 30,000 individuals, rather than collective action groups, by the end of May.

Under the proposals Lloyd's said that £800 million of the total global offer would be used as a litigation settlement. This would include some £50 million that would be used to meet costs incurred by the action groups of names that have instigated legal proceedings against Lloyd's and individual syndicates.

Some £2 billion of debt

credits would also be allocated to names in four tranches, depending on individual circumstances. The debt credits are intended to reduce the cost to members of reimbursing their liabilities into a specially formed company, Equitas.

Lloyd's said that each tranche of money is designed to address a specific objective, with the first tranche of between £300 million and £500 million being used to relieve disproportionately high losses. The second tranche of between £200 million and £300 million will reduce the cost of "finality" without unfairly disadvantaging those who have paid their debts to Lloyd's in full. The third, and largest, tranche of up to £1.3 billion will cap the cost of

"finality" at £100,000 after deducting "names" funds already held by Lloyd's.

The fourth tranche of between £100 million and £150 million would provide further assistance to names otherwise unable to meet the cost of finality. Access to this tranche would be means-tested.

John Mays, chairman of Merritt No. 2 group and a member of the Litigating Names Committee, said the £2.8 billion offer was "not enough" and the £100,000 "finality" cap should be halved. Robert Miller of the Association of Lloyd's Members said additional funding for the settlement could be raised by doubling or trebling to £300 or £450 million the contribution from Lloyd's managing agents, who made £400 million to £600 million in commissions between 1993 and 1995.

Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association's Working Party, said: "The settlement proposals are based on expediency and not justice. They are not acceptable... Thousands of ruined names know that the cause of their £12 billion 'losses' has been regulatory failure, incompetence, negligence, deliberate concealment and fraud."

Alan Porter, chairman of the Devonshire and Cuthbert Heath action groups of more than 2,300 litigating names, said the terms of the Lloyd's final offer "were not acceptable", and that the plans for means-testing are "impractical and offensive".

Last night Lloyd's indicated that the terms might be further improved "if the additional funding can be found".

## Nelson dismisses chance of early Lloyd's review

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A WIDE-RANGING review of regulation of Lloyd's will be set up by ministers, but not before the next general election. MPs were told last night.

Anthony Nelson, the Trade Minister, said that an early review of regulation could damage the prospects of success for Equitas, the reinsurance company being formed to meet Lloyd's liabilities.

Mr Nelson said it was unlikely that a full review of regulation at Lloyd's could be carried out before the summer of 1997. He told the Commons Treasury Select Committee: "We should look again at the overall structure when the horizon is clearer."

He conceded that the Government had taken too long in looking at regulation in the past and that ministers needed to be "nimble".

Heckled repeatedly by Lloyd's names attending the hearing, Mr Nelson said that it was important not to distract attention from setting up Equitas successfully. "If it were undertaken now, it would make the prospects of Equitas getting off the ground very much less," he said.

However, he dismissed suggestions of some MPs that the review was being delayed to avoid controversy prior to a general election.

Mr Nelson added that there had been inadequate regulation and supervision of most areas of the financial sector, but he insisted that a review

should not look only at what had gone wrong in the past.

Pressed repeatedly by Tory and Labour MPs over the supervision of Equitas, Mr Nelson said that the Department of Trade and Industry would check Lloyd's assessment of the amount needed to meet its liabilities.

Matthew Carrington, a Tory MP on the committee, said that many of the names contributing to Equitas "have no confidence in Lloyd's".

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# UK workers 'top for EU purchasing power'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH employees' purchasing power is greater than workers in almost every other European country, the Government said yesterday as Labour sharply attacked its claims for the UK's job performance against its principal economic competitors.

Ministers denied that the Government's strong promotion of what it claimed were the job successes of its economic and labour market policies were a pre-election move, though they accepted that there might well be a political spin-off from any improvement in individual or business confidence and any rise in the economic "feel-good" factor.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, launched a new drive to place Britain's employment record against other countries across Europe at the centre of the Government's emphasis on Britain's economic and competitive performance.

Publishing what she described as a "blizzard" of statistics on the UK labour market's comparative performance, she claimed that the success of the UK economy and of the Government's policies would continue, in comparison with other Euro-



Fragrant results: Andrew Balcombe, chairman of Armour Trust, where profits rose 75 per cent

## No bar on pension claims

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE life insurance arms of the high street banks have announced that they will not bar personal pension compensation claims that are outside the six-year legal limit.

The banks involved are Abbey National, Barclays, Lloyds TSB, Midland, National Westminster and the Royal Bank of Scotland, the members of the British Bankers' Association (BBA) Bancassurance group.

It remains to be seen whether other life insurance groups also agree to consider claims arising from pension sales made more than six years ago. The Prudential last week revealed that it would not exclude claims outside the time-limit.

Tony Baker, deputy director general of the Association of British Insurers (ABI), said he had called on members to clarify their positions, asking them to reassure policyholders that claims would not be time-barred. Many victims of the £4 billion pensions scandal fear their claims will be rejected because of a time bar.

## Jury selected for Forsyth trial

By JON ASHWORTH

ASIL NADIR's former adviser, Elizabeth Forsyth, goes on trial today at the Old Bailey, 17 months after she returned voluntarily to the UK from northern Cyprus to face charges of perjury.

A panel of eight women and four men was selected, but they were not sworn in. Another 12 were also picked as reserves. The judge told all of them to consider their opinions overnight, adding: "I don't want this to be a decision anyone feels they have been rushed into."

The 12 jurors will be sworn in today, when David Calvert-Smith is expected to open the case for the prosecution. The trial will be held in the Old Bailey annexe in Chancery Lane, used for the trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell. The case is expected to last between four and six weeks.

## Butte loses appeal in \$1bn action

## US to clear bill at World Bank

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A US Federal Court of Appeal has thrown out Butte Mining's appeal against a dismissal of its \$1 billion fraud action against Robertson Group, a subsidiary of Simon Engineering. Since Butte filed its lawsuit in May 1992, Simon Engineering has argued that the claims relating to Butte's 1987 flotation and an acquisition the group made a year later were "baseless and misconceived".

By losing the appeal, Butte will be forced to litigate only in the UK, where it has launched a lawsuit against Robertson and two of its subsidiaries as well as Ernst & Young, the auditor. Simon said the UK case is worth far less than the failed \$1 billion US claim. The complaint against Robertson originated more than three years before Simon bought the group in 1991.

The 12 jurors will be sworn in today, when David Calvert-Smith is expected to open the case for the prosecution. The trial will be held in the Old Bailey annexe in Chancery Lane, used for the trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell. The case is expected to last between four and six weeks.

Butte Mining has appealed to the US budget deficit, yesterday pledged to pay all its arrears to the World Bank's concessional lending arm before July 1997, but will not take part in an emergency fund being set up for one year by other donor countries.

The International Development Association (IDA) is facing a crisis of funding because Congress has cut by half. Donor countries are working to a June deadline to agree funds for the next three years of IDA lending to the world's poorest countries and have been in intensive negotiations about how to cope up with the money without a contribution from America.

IDA deputies met in Paris yesterday and are close to setting up an emergency fund of three billion Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which will tide IDA over for the first year of its next three-year programme. It is hoped that this will be finally agreed at a meeting in Tokyo on March 7 and 8.

Jan Piency, US Executive Director to the World Bank, said yesterday that the US will not take part in the emergency fund, but will pay \$934.5 million in arrears during the fiscal year 1997, starting on July 1.

She also said that America is committed to returning to the usual framework of loans: donors contribute every three years — but said that the US will not be able to agree to the amounts currently projected by the World Bank.

The Bank calculates the US contribution at \$960 million in 1998 and \$980 million in 1999.

Poor pay the price, page 27

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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OLYMPIA & YORK DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED  
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CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO  
-and-

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PLAINTANT in the Order of Mr Justice Winkler made on January 31, 1996 in the Ontario Court (Court of Ontario), any party proceeding in the matter is asked to make a claim to GW Utilities Limited, its shareholders (GW Utilities Subsidiaries Inc., former 75592 Ontario Inc., GW Utilities U.K. 972768 Ontario Inc. and 98205 Ontario Inc.) for liabilities (actual, contingent, secured, unsecured or otherwise) of GW Utilities Limited and its subsidiaries, existing immediately prior to the amalgamation of GW Utilities Limited and Olympia & York Development Limited, which was implemented on March 30, 1993, must do so by making such claim in writing directed to Coopers & Lybrand OYDL Inc. the Administrator of Olympia & York Developments Limited at the following address:

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## Armour Trust surges to £1.3m

By PHILIP PANGALO

ORGANIC growth and acquisitions helped Armour Trust, the confectionery to automotive products group, to buck the adverse effects of unseasonal weather with a 75 per cent surge in first-half profits.

Strong trading from the fragrance division helped pre-tax profits to jump from £758,000 last time to £1.33 million in the six months to October 31, on turnover ahead 11 per cent at £19.9 million.

The profits advance was exaggerated by an absence of reorganisation costs which depressed earnings by £220,000 in the comparative period. But an underlying 15 per cent profits rise was still achieved in spite of the unusually hot summer, which hit sales of confectionery, and a warm autumn, which slowed sales of automotive, winter products such as antifreeze.

Andrew Balcombe, chairman, is optimistic about prospects, especially after the recent cold spell and the introduction of a CD-Rom entitled *The Driving Test — Your Licence to Drive*. The CD-Rom, which sells for £29.99 at Halfords and is approved by the Department of Transport and the Institute of Advanced Motorists, contains sample driving test questions in advance of the new driving test to be introduced this year.

Mr Balcombe said: "Turnover for the beginning of the second half until Christmas was good, due in part to the short burst of cold weather. Growth since the new year is generally regaining momentum and we plan further expansion. I believe the improved performance seen in the first half will continue through to the second half."

The interim dividend rises to 4.46p (0.418p), payable on May 10, from earnings of 2.5p (2.5p) a share.

## Kvaerner increases profit to £246m

KVAERNER, the industrial group that is based in Norway and has interests in the UK, increased profits to £246 million (£1.23 million). The shipbuilding to pulp and paper group, whose shares are listed in London, enjoyed a £57.4 million exceptional gain on the sale of its gas carrier business. Kvaerner owns the Govan shipyard on the Clyde, the UK's largest commercial shipbuilder, which made a positive contribution last year. The group, which failed to take over Amec this year, employs more than 3,000 in the UK. Kvaerner said the improvement was made despite weakness in the pulp and paper and mechanical engineering businesses.

## Warren case postponed

THE court room clash between Frank Warren, the boxing promoter, and the DTI was postponed for a second time yesterday after the judge chosen to preside over the proceedings was taken ill. The High Court hearing is now expected to start next week. Mr Warren, 43, is resisting attempts by the DTI to have him banned from serving as a company director. He says the proceedings concern the affairs of various companies before 1991, and have no bearing on his present business interests.

## MCI and AT&T talks

MCI Communications Corp and AT&T Corp, long-distance telephone rivals, are negotiating about sharing the costs of providing local telephone calling. The talks come just days after a new telecommunications reform Bill passed into law, freeing long-distance and local telephone companies to compete on each other's turf. AT&T and MCI declined to comment. MCI's MCI Metro subsidiary is spending \$2 billion building local circuits to reach mainly business customers in 24 cities.

## BICC chief to retire

SIR Robin Biggam is to retire as chairman of BICC, the construction group, in June. He will be succeeded by Viscount Weir, a non-executive deputy chairman. Lord Weir is chairman of Weir Group and vice-chairman of St James Place Capital. He is a director of Canadian Pacific and was formerly a director of the Bank of England and British Steel. Sir Robin joined BICC as managing director in 1986, became chief executive in 1987 and chairman in 1992. He is chairman of Farley Group and a non-executive director of British Aerospace and Redland.

## Ernst & Young Asia link

ERNST & YOUNG, the professional services firm, has linked with Asia's biggest consultancy group with a view to boosting its consultancy portfolio. Tata Consultancy Services, based in Bombay, has worldwide revenues of \$130 million, and a sizeable UK client base. Tata Sons, its parent company, employs more than 275,000 people. TCS alone employs more than 5,000 professionals in more than 100 cities, including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Bristol, and up to 25 per cent of its revenue comes from the UK.

## Consolidated Coal deal

CONSOLIDATED COAL, the small, independent mining company that was floated at 50p a share last August, is acquiring Glocet Mining, a private group that owns open-cast and underground mining sites in South Wales, for £2.6 million in shares and cash. The company, where John Belak is a non-executive director, is also looking to raise £1.6 million through a placing of 3.5 million new shares, at 53p a share, in order to develop the mines being acquired from Glocet. Consolidated Coal shares eased up to 51p.

## Tax evader jailed

A DRESDNER BANK client in Germany was yesterday sentenced to 45 months in jail and ordered to pay a DM1.3 million fine, the first customer of the bank to be sentenced in a two-year inquiry into tax evasion. The Koblenz court ruled that the 55-year-old sausage skin dealer, who was not named, had evaded taxes through a Dresden Luxembourg account. He had confessed and repaid more than DM10 million in back taxes. Two Dresden Bank officials in Koblenz, alleged to have helped him, were released on bail last month.

## BOC widens China link

BOC GROUP, the UK gases company, has established a 50-50 venture with Taiyuan Iron and Steel, its largest investment in China. The joint venture, to be managed by BOC, will take over Taiyuan Iron's industrial gases assets and production and will invest £18 million in new plant to expand the existing capacity. It will manage three existing air-separation units and a hydrogen production plant. The new air-separation unit will be capable of producing 750 tonnes a day of oxygen and will be built by BOC's global engineering arm.

## British Coal sells land

BRITISH COAL has sold almost 800 acres of agricultural land in Northumberland, raising about £2.1 million. A package of 789 acres offered last November, attracted average prices of £2,700 an acre. British Coal is to sell a further seven regional agricultural land packages. The first likely to be about 5,000 acres in South Wales, will be offered next month. This will be followed by 7,000 acres in Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, East Lothian and Fife and packages in the East Midlands, Staffordshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire, plus 13,000 acres in the North East.

## EU seeks inquiry

THE European Union is to ask the World Trade Organization to investigate the relationship between low wages and trade. But treading carefully weeks before an Asia-Europe summit, Sir Leon Brittan, Trade Commissioner, said the EU did not seek to impose a "social tariff" on low-wage trade partners. "We have no agenda for depriving low-wage countries of their legitimate economic advantage," he said. He denied reports that the EU was putting conditions on trade accords with nations in Asia and Latin America.

## Greenspan likely to stay

From RICHARD THOMSON in New York

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, the US central bank, is expected in the next few days to be nominated for a third term as the world's most powerful financier.

Mr Greenspan, who has won praise from all quarters for his handling of the US economy over the past eight years, has few serious rivals for the post. Even though he is a Republican, he is likely to be backed by the backing of President Clinton, a Democrat. He can also rely on the Republican majority in Congress to ratify his appointment. His current

term as head of the central bank ends on March 2.

As the man in charge of short-term interest rate policy in the US, he has waged a relentless fight against inflation which has sometimes put him in conflict with the Government when he was obliged to raise interest rates.

Mr Greenspan is an astute political operator able to look after his own interests. He was once Richard Nixon's domestic policy adviser in the 1960s, and was appointed to the Fed by Ronald Reagan in 1986. He made his peace with the Democrats after Bill Clinton

was elected, but has recently turned to the right, apparently to please the Republicans in Congress.

Although he studied at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music and once played saxophone in a swing band, Mr Greenspan turned to economics shortly after graduating. He has become a millionaire from his business consultancy practice in New York.

President Clinton is also likely to nominate Felix Rohatyn, the veteran financier and director of Lazarus Frères, the investment bank, as the Fed's deputy chairman.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Days	Bank Weeks
Australia \$	2.12	1.96
Austria Sch	10.87	15.57
Austria Sh	10.87	15.57
Belgium B	2.201	2.041
Cypres Cyp	0.759	0.701
Denmark Kr	0.935	0.835
Finland Fim	1.516	1.51
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Iceland Isk	2.851	3.00
India Ru	1.246	1.40
Ireland Sh	5.1600	4.5100
Japan Yen	177.50	177.50
Malta L	0.552	0.557
Netherlands Gld	2.676	2.448
New Zealand \$	2.42	2.23
Norway Kr	10.45	10.45
Portugal Esc	245.60	247.00
South Africa R	187.00	190.00
Sweden Kr	11.25	10.46
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.80
UK £	1.626	1.656
USA \$	1.626	1.656

Figures for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank.

Sir Alastair Morton's mediators  Black spot for takeover targets  Exit for names, at a price

SIR Alastair Morton could not have been more vehement yesterday in insisting that the appointment of mediators to sort out the company's financial problems was a harmless French idea to use distinguished people's good offices rather than the first step on the shuttle to insolvency. Others may be forgiven if they do not share his insouciance. Under French law, a company's auditors are obliged to report to the President of the Tribunal de Commerce in Paris if they fear imminent bankruptcy. The President sends in mediators to try and sort out a rescue deal and give the company some breathing space from its creditors.

If this is not quite Chapitre Onze, it is something perilously close to it. The two mediators announced yesterday are undoubtedly heavyweights who share the advantage of having no direct personal involvement in the Eurotunnel fiasco, although Lord Wakeham was a member of the Cabinet that gave its blessing to a 100 per cent privately finance Channel Tunnel in the mid-1980s.

The mediators' task is to persuade 225 banks not only to keep Eurotunnel afloat but allow it enough buoyancy to leave open the prospect that shareholders might still receive some dividend before the company's concession

## Chapter ten and a half at Eurotunnel

finally runs out. This is a tall order that will stretch even Lord Wakeham's legendary skills at political infighting and establishment manipulation. But politicians are certainly the right people for the job and Robert Badinter, Wakeham's French confere, may be the key figure in using continental culture to resolve what raw Anglo-Saxon business methods cannot.

If Eurotunnel survives, it will do so ultimately because the French Establishment does not want 620,000 citizen shareholders to be left with nothing. This would hardly aid the cause of privatisation in France, which has already got off to a shaky start.

Disgruntled Frenchmen have a tendency to cause trouble, for instance by refusing any scheme drawn up by banks.

The smaller number of UK shareholders, again overwhelmingly private investors, are probably more realistic. Most may now reckon their travel concessions are the only thing worth preserving. In many cases they will be worth more than the shares, which do not reflect the

value of untransferable perks. For these to be preserved, it is only necessary that the company does not go into liquidation and the shares continue to exist. The board must therefore make sure they are not bargained away.

Were it not for the political dimension, banks might well do a Canary Wharf, foreclosing in order to take control of the equity. It is still possible that two thirds of more than 200 of them will be foolish enough to vote in March against continuing the current moratorium on junior debt service for another year. Avoiding that is the mediators' first objective.

Britain for sale, all bidders welcome

WHAT is the point, beleaguered company boards might reasonably ask? According to Scottish Amicable Investment Managers, who also manage £2 billion of other people's money, takeover bids should normally be accepted and it would be great for shareholders if there were more of them. Analysis of 15



companies that actively fought off bids in recent years, rather than surviving by grace of the competition authorities, shows that most went on to underperform the stock market average.

The Glasgow manager concludes: "History suggests that shareholders are better to accept the offer on the table and reinvest the proceeds in the stock market".

In case potential bidders have not received the invitation, Scottish Amicable spells it out loud and clear. "Time is ripe for success in gaining control of underperforming assets. Institutional shareholders are becoming increasingly reluctant to back incumbent management as

they are being forced to deliver short-term investment performance for our clients". Competition invites fund managers to take any bid premium going, often by selling in the market, regardless of the long-term consequences. So make that bid.

Bigger fish than Scottish Amicable adopt this strategy, though they are more coy about it. It is not surprising that escapees underperformed the market by an average 12 per cent in the first two months.

The bid brings forward potential share price growth. Far more telling is that 10 out of 13 were underperforming after three years. As Douglas Ferrars of Scottish Amicable notes, aggressors usually have the upper hand. "The defender has to make some pretty bold promises and often fails to deliver".

There are big exceptions, such as Racal and Dixons, whose independence rewarded investors. And if fund managers unthinkingly backed bidders, bid terms would soon slide lower. So a tactical veil will cloak fund managers' eagerness. But

anyone framing public policy on takeovers should realise that a simplistic principle that all premiums should be cashed to boost short-term performance is all that can be expected from institutional shareholders.

### Lloyd's line of least resistance

THE "final" offer to disgraced Lloyd's names may be no more final than the last time. But some modified version of the plan unveiled yesterday seems likely to pass muster in the summer, despite the chorus of disapproval that immediately peppered it. That may not be because it is a great plan. It is clearly flawed. But Lloyd's David Rowland has one powerful force going for him. Most people concerned have grown battle weary that they want the issue to be over and done with.

At least this Lloyd's settlement plan would achieve that. It can terminate the misery of any name. All liabilities for the past can be quantified and dealt with, and names can finally end their

sentence in the insurance market. Just as important, those liabilities to be reimbursed with Equitas will be capped. On the basis of £2.3 billion kitty, the cap is £100,000 of new money.

Otherwise, 9,000 names might have to pay more and 2,000 might be down for £400,000. Capping will take about £1.2 billion, against £800 million reserved for litigants. It will also release from extra money from auditors, brokers and managing agents that will be needed if thousands of successful or optimistic litigants are to back the settlement instead.

When, the latter groups do their sums, they may find that many names do not care if the plan lapses. Lloyd's fails its names solvency test and has to start up shop. Extra should be forthcoming. Then, more will surely be reserved for litigants before the rest helps lower the liability cap.

If such changes are made, the unavoidable injustices of such a scheme should not stop it. The arrogance of Lloyd's still might. The Council of Lloyd's would still wield its long-discredited discretion to deny access to one or more of the funds to professionals nominally responsible to the disciplinary board, as well as shun outside names. Still no point being a name if your face does not fit.

## Managers buy £200m British Alcan businesses

BY MARTIN BARROW

A MANAGEMENT team has triumphed in the race to acquire the downstream interests of British Alcan for £200 million.

British Aluminium, a newly formed company backed by institutional investors, is acquiring 12 businesses from Alcan, boasting annual sales in excess of £500 million and profits of more than £25 million. The company will be based in Manchester and will employ about 4,200 people.

The businesses being acquired include Baco Consum-

er Products, manufacturer of Bacofoil household foil, clingfilm and wrapping products, with operations in Amersham and Huddersfield.

It also owns Luxfer Gas Cylinders, the manufacturer of high-pressure gas cylinders, with UK operations in Nottingham and Aldridge, Staffordshire, and in the US in California and North Carolina. Baco Metal Centres, another subsidiary, is the largest aluminium distributor in Britain.

A total of £265 million has

been raised for the transaction, allowing scope for new investment and growth. Institutional investors in British Aluminium include Mercury Development Capital, CVC Capital Partners and Morgan Grenfell Development Capital.

The management team will also have a stake in the business.

The chairman of British Aluminium will be Jeff Whalley, the chairman of FKI, who will work on a part-time basis with Ian MacKinnon, chief executive, and Brian Purves, financial director.

Mr MacKinnon was formerly a member of British Alcan's management team from 1991, when he was recruited to manage the speciality and aerospace division. He left during 1994 to assemble the management buyout. He is a former managing director of Leyland Bus.

Mr Purves is currently a member of the Rover Group executive committee and has held senior finance positions at Land Rover, at Rover's commercial division and at Rover Group headquarters.

At FKI, Mr Whalley has presided over the company's increase in value from £250 million to £950 million since the demerger of FKI Babcock in 1991.

The businesses are being acquired from Alcan Aluminium, the Canadian parent of British Alcan. British Alcan will continue to be the UK's largest producer of primary aluminium, rolled aluminium products and alumina chemicals.

Its activities will comprise Alcan Smelting & Power UK, based in Newcastle, which operates primary aluminium smelters with a combined capacity of 179,000 tonnes a year; Alcan Rolled Products UK; Alcan Recycling and Alcan Chemicals Europe.

who acted as a management consultant to Guinness. They have always maintained the share operations were common practice and therefore could not be classified as a crime.

In May 1991, the Court of Appeal upheld the judgment against Saunders on all but one count but cut his jail term to two and a half years.

The conviction was upheld again last November when the Court of Appeal was asked to reconsider the case in the light of new evidence.

Saunders' new appeal centres on the use at this trial of statements he made to Department of Trade and Industry inspectors. He claims the use of the incriminating statements — he was required by law to answer DTT questions or face jail for contempt — breached an article of the European Convention on Human Rights relating to a fair trial.

In August 1990, Saunders was convicted and sentenced to five years in jail. Three prominent businessmen were also convicted — Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International, which took part in the share-buying operation; Anthony Parnes, a trader; and Sir Jack Lyons,



Building up hopes: Andrew MacKenzie, left, chief executive of Bryant, with Sir Colin Hope, chairman, yesterday

### Farnell bid for Premier in balance

THE fate of Farnell's £1.8 billion bid for Premier was balanced on a knife edge last night as the leading institutional shareholders finalised their positions for today's vote (Alasdair Murray writes).

Attention centred on the voting intention of the Prudential fund management division, which controls 6 per cent of the voting rights. Prudential was believed to be concerned about the cost of the deal but last night refused to comment on which way the company would vote at today's extraordinary meeting.

Prudential's position is crucial because Farnell needs 75 per cent of the vote to proceed with the takeover.

Farnell claims the support of about 24 per cent of shareholders. Farnell's share price fell 10p to 63p.

### Time-Turner deal and top job in jeopardy

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE \$7.5 billion takeover deal between Time Warner and Ted Turner's cable television network could be in jeopardy if the future of Gerald Levin, Time's chairman, has been thrown into doubt.

The deal faces strong opposition from the powerful Federal Trade Commission (FTC), whose approval is needed for the takeover to go ahead. The FTC believes the deal has "manifold problems" which could prove too complex to iron out. If the deal went through, it would create the world's largest entertainment group, worth \$20 billion.

Meanwhile, a devastating 15-page article in *New Yorker* magazine, written by Connie Bruck, who is an authority on Time Warner, details a series of blunders by Gerald Levin in negotiating the deal which substantially raised its cost to Time's shareholders. For example, it is alleged, he failed to notify Telecommunications Inc, Time's largest shareholder, before announcing the takeover, allowing TCI to demand cheap access to the Turner network, and a series of other "sweetheart" deals as the price for not blocking the takeover.

News of the deal sparked intense boardroom in-fighting that could have spelled disaster for Levin if the co-chairmen of Warner Bros, Bob Daly and Terry Semel, had carried out a threat to resign.

Levin bought them off with extra compensation of \$150 million and sacked Michael

Fuchs, the head of Warner Music and their arch-rival, who is likely to get a pay-off of about \$70 million.

Outmanoeuvred at every turn with feuding executives increasingly unhappy shareholders, and a growing reputation for profligacy, Mr Levin's "eventual forced exit seems likely", the article says.

Its conclusion intensifies speculation that Mr Levin's departure is inevitable whether or not the Turner deal goes through.

Many observers believe Mr Turner, who is to become Time's deputy chairman, will oust Mr Levin at the earliest opportunity if his company is taken over. But if the deal collapses, Mr Levin is likely to be ejected by his shareholders.

## Profits at Bryant halved but prospects promising

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRYANT, the housebuilder, revealed yesterday that half-year profits had halved to £10.1 million as the industry continues to suffer from poor consumer confidence.

Shares fell a further 1.5p to 104.5p, but later recovered to close unchanged at 106p.

Sir Colin Hope, the chairman, expressed cautious optimism for the rest of the year.

The prospects for the housing market in 1996 are showing signs of gradual improvement as purchaser confidence responds to reductions in personal taxation and interest rates.

Overall turnover fell 5 per cent to £232 million for the six months to November 30. The homes division experienced a fall in reservations of 20 per cent and completions dropped 12 per cent to £53. But Bryant said that all the homes divisions, apart from County Homes, made an operating profit while the construction division maintained profits of £1.1 million.

The company increased the average house selling price to £114,000, from £106,000 last year, largely owing to a concentration on more expensive sales. But operating margins fell by 6 per cent as build costs increased. The company's land bank was reduced from 9,700 to 9,000 plots. The company added that it was now concentrating on negotiating options to purchase land.

Bryant revealed that it had made a £500,000 provision to cover 80 redundancies announced last autumn, and had negotiated a number of reductions in build costs, which combined with a decrease in overheads would enable the company to boost operating margins.

The dividend was maintained at 1.45p payable on April 24.

Tempus, page 26

STRETCHED.



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● LABOUR BARRISTERS 33  
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Anthony Scrivener, QC, on the implications of the Scott report, and David Pannick, QC, on the future role of judges in inquiries

# Scott: unfair attack on a fair judge

**O**ne result of this week's report by Sir Richard Scott will be that, in future, public interest immunity (PII) certificates will again have some credibility.

The evidence at the inquiry revealed the shenanigans that went on when the Matrix Churchill PII certificates were signed. These appeared to conceal the fact that, contrary to expressed Government policy, sales of arms to Iraq had been encouraged and one of the defendants had been used as a British spy. Even the not easily ruffled Sir Humphrey would have blushed.

Ministers took different approaches to signing the certificates. One did his two things and took responsibility for what he signed. This looks like an example of what used to be called ministerial responsibility — a doctrine which seems to be in decline.

Others were told by the Attorney-General that they had no choice in the matter and they had to sign — and so they did. Another did not like being told to sign and carefully noted his reservations for posterity, and required those reservations to be passed on to the court.

Unfortunately, in the euphoria of obtaining this important signature to complete the battery of certificates, everyone seems to have forgotten to inform the court of the reservations. This was all the more sad bearing in mind this was a criminal trial. To use the words of Hamlet, the whole episode was "Each particular hair to stand on end. Like quills upon the fretful porcupine."

An Attorney-General telling ministers that they must sign on the dotted line to prevent disclosure seems a long way from those proud words of Viscount Kilner, a Conservative Lord Chancellor, who, in 1906, said that if documents "are relevant to the defence in criminal proceedings, Crown privilege should not be claimed".

The Attorney-General's opinion that ministers had to sign the certificates came under close examination at the Scott inquiry. Some of the decisions and answers are recommended for light reading. It will be interesting to see if this notion of the Attorney-General survives the report, or whether ministerial responsibility is due to make an unexpected comeback.

The confidence of the public and the courts will be greatly restored if they can at least be sure that a minister has considered the documents and exercised his own judgment before deciding to sign a certificate.

In this way, he will have taken personal responsibility for the decision and so will not be heard later to say that the senior law officer somehow put him up to it.

Everyone accepts that it may be necessary to protect state security, and perhaps other sensitive material, but the Scott report will reveal whether the certificates were issued in the Matrix Churchill case for such honourable purposes or merely to protect against political embarrassment.

Hopefully, the report will ensure that, in future, PII certificates are used only for legitimate purposes.

**The real problem for the Government is that it is likely Sir Richard has unearthed some unpleasant truths**

The only protection against abuse of this procedure is a truthful and frank certificate given by a responsible minister which is then considered by an impartial judge who, having all the relevant information, is able to strike the appropriate balance between the interests of the State and the individual. It is hoped that the Scott report will help to achieve this objective.

There is a more sinister aspect to the Matrix Churchill fiasco. It seems probable that the generous use of public interest immunity certificates distorted the trial. The effect of the certificates was to deny to the defence — practically every document which would have shown the truth and would have confirmed the defence. Anyone who knew of the documents hidden by the certificates should have appreciated this.

The question which the Scott report may well address is who allowed the prosecution case to be presented on this false basis? This is an important question since the

exclusion of the evidence meant that innocent men ran the risk of conviction.

It is obvious that the Government is expecting flak from the report. There are those in the party faithful who are attempting to rubbish the report on the grounds that Sir Richard Scott adopted procedures different from those proposed by Lord Salmon in an earlier and different type of inquiry, and the report was therefore unfair. Lord Howe of Aberavon has already been a vociferous spokesman on the subject.

It is a pity that Lord Howe does not examine, for comparison, the procedures used by the Department of Trade and Industry or perhaps by the Serious Fraud Office or even the police had he done so he would certainly have been much better informed and perhaps less outspoken.

The fact is that the procedures suggested by Lord Salmon for use at inquiries were never intended to be applicable to every situation. He was at pains to emphasise that such rules had to be flexible according to the different types of inquiry.

The procedure at the Scott inquiry was evidently fair: questions were provided in advance, every witness was able to consult his lawyer even during questioning, a witness could not be compelled to answer, the witness was able to correct the transcript of his evidence afterwards, and no criticism could be made in the report unless the witness had been given an opportunity to comment on it.

**T**hose businessmen who have been witnesses at a DTI inquiry will have little sympathy for politicians complaining about unfairness at the Scott inquiry.

The real problem is that it is likely the judge has unearthed some unpleasant truths. There is plenty of evidence of this from the Matrix Churchill trial itself: remember poor Alan Clark when, faced unexpectedly with a document no longer protected by a certificate? He said: "... well, it's our old friend being economical isn't it?"

And thus he brought back happy memories of another "old friend" being caught bang to rights at an earlier trial in which the Government was involved.

• Anthony Scrivener is a former chairman of the Bar.



Sir Richard Scott has been criticised by those who are ill-informed about the inquiry

## INNS AND OUTS

### Juries not guilty

THE NEW minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, Jonathan Evans, MP, has hit back at statements by Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, that juries now no longer reflect their community and are "skewed" towards the working class and the unemployed.

Mr Straw's allegations of "loose practice" — by which the self-employed and professionals can easily evade jury service — were "very wide of the mark," says Mr Evans. "The Criminal Justice Act 1985 introduced the possibility of deferral of jury service. This aims to reduce requests to be excused, because those who have commitments, such as holidays or specific work problems, are expected to serve at a later date."

He quotes research for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice showing that the occupations of juries matched the general population "with a slight over-representation of clerical workers and under-representation of skilled manual workers".

### Jungle out there

KEN LIVINGSTONE, MP, is developing a successful sideline as an expert witness. He recently gave evidence on behalf of the zoo owner John Aspinall at the latter's successful appeal to allow trainees to enter his zoo's tiger enclosures. Mr Livingstone supported the argument that the ban prevented the trainees from doing what they wanted to do.

But Mr Aspinall's lawyer, David Harrel, a partner at S.J. Berwin & Co, says: "He also offered to give expert evidence on wildlife, drawing on his extensive experience of going in with live news."

### Food for thought

MEMBERS of the law firm Nicholson, Graham & Jones, who wondered what the correspondence mysteriously headed "Project Baltic" was about, now know. Its entire pensions department, consisting of eight lawyers, was negotiating to move to the London pension firm Sacker & Co, which will almost double in size as a result.

A spokesman for Sacker & Co explains the project's unusual code name: "The head of Nicholson's department, Ian Pittaway, and his team met in an Indian restaurant to discuss the possibility of moving, and Project Baltic was born."

## Perils of doing the dirty work

**S**ir Richard Scott's long-awaited report into the export of arms to Iraq will be published on Thursday. Its contents will seek to answer many questions about the propriety of government conduct, but it will raise almost as many questions about the future role of the judiciary in conducting inquiries on behalf of the Government.

Prime Ministers have habitually turned to judges to investigate and report on important and sensitive issues. Some of these inquiries have concerned national tragedies or traumas, such as the Aberfan disaster (Lord Justice Edmund Davies in 1966-67), allegations of child abuse in Cleveland (Lady Justice Butler-Sloss in 1988), and the Hillsborough stadium disaster (Lord Justice Taylor in 1989).

On many occasions, the subjects entrusted to judges have had the potential to become politically explosive. Lord Denning conducted an inquiry into the security implications of the Profumo affair in 1963. He later wrote that some of the evidence was "so disgusting — even to my sophisticated mind — that I sent the lady short-hand writers out and had no note of it taken".

Then, from 1965 to 1968, Lord Pearson chaired a Royal Commission on Trade Union Reform. In 1972, Lord Wilberforce — reported on miners' pay. Lord Diplock advised on legal procedures for terrorist trials in Northern Ireland, and Lord Widgery inquired into the events of Northern Ireland's

Bloody Sunday, in which 13 civilians were killed. Lord Scarman's 1981 report on the Brixton riot and Lord Woolf's 1990 inquiry into prison conditions also concerned issues of fundamental political dispute.

Prime Ministers choose judges to conduct these inquiries for a variety of reasons. Judges are skilled at considering a mass of evidence, analysing its relevance, and weight, and producing a reasoned conclusion as to what occurred and why. Judges are, and are perceived to be, impartial when assessing controversial issues.

A report which carries the authority of a judge is likely to command public respect. Appointing judges to do such dirty work is not a peculiarly British phenomenon. When President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, it was natural for his successor, President Johnson, to appoint Earl Warren, the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, to conduct the investigation into the shooting.

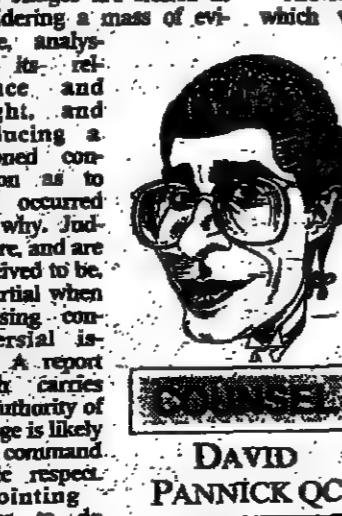
The use of judges to inquire on behalf of the Government works well when the issues concern disputed questions of fact, or proposals for reform of technical areas of law. Then the judi-

cacy is playing to its strengths. When, by contrast, judges are invited to make extra-legal judgments, whether political, social or moral, politicians have recognised that the judge's lack of prior expertise is outweighed by the value of an independent assessment of complex issues.

The fundamental dispute which will boil over on Thursday concerns the weight to be attached to the conclusions and recommendations of a judge who was not an expert on the working practices of Whitehall before he began his task. The attack has been led by Lord Howe of Aberavon. He has contended that Sir Richard has failed to understand the realities of the way government operates in the real world.

Yet Sir Richard was appointed precisely to ensure that substantial allegations about the propriety of government conduct were thoroughly considered by an independent person from outside Whitehall, who would study the material and apply objective standards of assessment.

This is likely to be the last such inquiry for many years. Politicians and civil servants are going to take a long time



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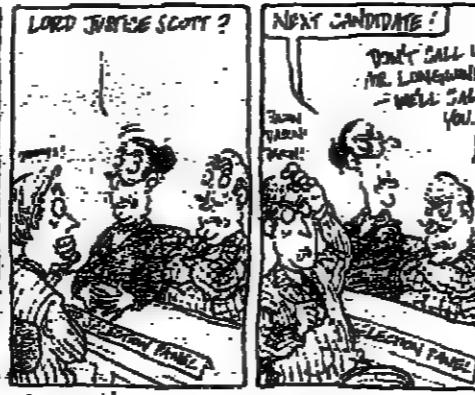
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Peter Goldsmith, QC, and Michael Beloff, QC, reject criticism of Cherie Booth

# The cab rank rule keeps us impartial

Last year Cherie Booth, the wife of the Leader of the Opposition, was made a Queen's Counsel on the recommendation of the Conservative Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. It was a vivid and valuable demonstration of the constitutional doctrine that the administration of justice and party politics are separate in the United Kingdom.

No objection can be taken to the natural curiosity of the media in Ms Booth's career as a barrister, which is itself an object lesson in the fact that gender imposes no barrier to success at the modern Bar. However, on no fewer than three occasions public criticism has been made by various persons of Ms Booth's advocacy on behalf of one local authority seeking to enforce its claims against a council tax defaulter, of another seeking to justify its dismissal of allegedly incompetent staff, and of Peter Clowes seeking to obtain parole, and within the last week she has been

invited to comment on her representation of a child seeking to enter a selective school. The suggestion is that, as a Labour supporter, Ms Booth should not deploy her professional talents in the service of those who, from a left-wing perspective, are scarcely politically correct or attractive. Even this newspaper has spoken loftily of possible embarrassment.

We cannot emphasise too strongly how misguided (even mischievous) such criticism is. The "cab rank rule" is as important an element of the Bar's code of conduct as can be found; it has indeed received the sanction of statute (in negative form) in Section 17 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. It means, as Lord Mackay, then Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, said in 1978: "An advocate has to represent people even though he did not like their views, and whether they had legal aid or not."

Why is it so vital? The words of Lord Erskine, uttered in 1792 in justification of his defence of Thomas Paine, the

English-born philosopher who supported the French Revolution, are relevant almost two centuries later: "From the moment that any advocate can be permitted to say that he will or will not stand between the Crown and the subject arraigned in the court where he daily sits in practice, from that moment the liberties of England are at an end."

It is a matter of constitutional importance that the advocates cannot pick and choose their clients on political grounds, on the popularity of the client's cause, or on whim. In certain Commonwealth jurisdictions, with a fused profession, there have occasionally been real difficulties in finding lawyers prepared to represent an unpopular dissenter from prevailing political orthodoxy. It is not for the advocate to prejudice the merits or otherwise of a client's case (although he or she may, of course, advise the client as to his chances of success); that would be to usurp the role of the judge or jury.

The most disreputable litigant is still entitled to proper representation. Lord Pearce in 1969 pointed to the reality if it were otherwise: "It is easier, pleasanter and more advantageous professionally for barristers to advise, represent or defend those who are decent and reasonable and likely to succeed in their action or their defence than those who are unpleasant, unreasonable, disreputable and have an apparently hopeless case. Yet it would be tragic if our legal system came to provide no reputable defenders, representatives or advisers for the latter, and that would be the inevitable result of allowing barristers to pick and choose their clients."

Finally, the rule enhances consumer confidence in the reality of access to the best justice that private or public money can obtain; and in the impartiality of advice received, uninfluenced by perceived personal or political predilection on the barrister's behalf. Advocates can decline to accept



Cherie Booth, QC, cannot pick her clients on the basis of their politics

instructions on various grounds: lack of time; lack of adequate remuneration if the case is privately funded; lack of experience in the particular field; lack of time to prepare; conflict of interest; refusal to participate in proposed deception of the court. But he or she cannot do so because the client or the client's cause fail to pass muster with a section of the electorate or even with their elected representatives.

Lest it be thought that the cab rank rule is a formal tradition rather than a living principle, or even that it is more honoured in the breach than in the observance, the authors can testify to its daily utility in the courts of law. David Pannick, QC, represented the leader of the Unification Church in the

High Court in a much-publicised case last term; but he was instructed for his forensic skills, not any adherence to the Church's beliefs. Michael Beloff, QC, (co-writer of this piece) opposed him for the Secretary of State; each might have taken the other's role; neither would for a second have declined to act.

The real story would be if (which is unthinkable) Ms Booth succumbed to pressure and refused to appear for convict or Conservative council. She should be allowed to continue unhampered by her practice. Her critics should be grateful that the profession which she adorns is faithful to the rule which she applies. Some principles are more important than partisan political points.

## Getting into a feather bed with Labour

Tony Blair is wooing the lawyers and putting their minds at rest, says Edward Fennell

With electioneering now begun in earnest, City lawyers are preparing for a change in administration. Richard Price, a partner with McKenna & Co, confessed: "If we're honest about it, we have all been expecting a Labour government."

No politically sensitive issue is of greater concern to lawyers than the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), which has generated lucrative fees for solicitors when the private sector is asked to bid for public service contracts. Although it got off to a couple of false starts, lawyers are now seeing a steady stream of PFI work. They are keen to know whether this will continue under Labour.

So far they have not been disappointed. Alistair Darling, the Shadow Treasury minister, is currently meeting City lawyers and seems to be whispering reassuring words.

One lawyer who lunched with Mr Darling last week said that, with a couple of exceptions, there would be no significant change. Jerome Missa of Eversheds says: "There may be a certain amount of rebidding, but the essentials will remain the same."

The attraction of PFI is that it brings work from both the public sector and from potential contractors. The leading law firms are trying to build up a track record with each. Berwin Leighton, for example, which has 19 lawyers in its PFI team and acts for the Treasury on Gogs (the Government offices in Great Smith Street), is also working for contractors bidding for substantial slices of NHS work.

Phil Bretherton, a partner, says: "It's important to understand the needs of both sides. We're close to the

Private Finance Panel but also appreciate the priorities of the contractors."

In similar vein, Dibbs

Lupton & Broomhead is about to second one of its senior lawyers to the PFI panel both to advise and to gain a better insight into the way the panel works. David Hickman, a partner, says: "We suggested it to the panel and they were delighted to take up the offer."

PFI work is a good example of the positive role that lawyers can play in helping bridge the gap of understanding between government and the private sector. This has made it an attractive adviser to bidders for new road projects.

In one case recently the firm was approached by four of the prospective consortiums. McKenna's partners had to weigh up the decision very carefully. Richard Price says: "There is an enormous amount of risk involved. To go with the wrong bidder could lead to a substantial loss."

Success in PFI work demands an array of expertise and resources. Eversheds and Dibbs, both leading national firms, feel that their combination of City teams and network of regional offices has positioned them well to attract work from NHS trusts, universities and so on.

But when Dibbs was awarded the work by the Benefits Agency for contracting out the National Insurance record system it was on the basis of its acknowledged strength in the information technology field.

Some specialisms, however, may die an early death. McKenna's is exceptional in its work for the prison sector (it acted for the successful Securicor consortium), but Mr Price suspects this may count for little in 18 months' time. "Prisons may be dropped by Labour from PFI," he says, "as just too loaded politically."

The real story would be if Ms Booth refused to appear for a client

invited to comment on her representation of a child seeking to enter a selective school. The suggestion is that, as a Labour supporter, Ms Booth should not deploy her professional talents in the service of those who, from a left-wing perspective, are scarcely politically correct or attractive. Even this newspaper has spoken loftily of possible embarrassment.

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## ■ FILM

On a roll: the Martin Scorsese roadshow hits London with a view to making a killing on *Casino*



## ■ RADIO

Radio 4 premieres one final, typically bizarre play by the irrepressible Mel Calman

## THE TIMES ARTS



## ■ MUSIC

Hear it once, hear it twice: Jonathan Harvey's new work is given an immediate reprise at St John's



■ TOMORROW  
How I became the new screen lago: Kenneth Branagh talks about the Bard, acting and fatal jealousy

## CONCERT

## Twice bitten

Sinfonia 21/Brabbins  
St John's

AS THE "composer in association" for three years with the chamber orchestra Sinfonia 21, Jonathan Harvey had the benefit of hearing his new *Hidden Voice*, commissioned by the orchestra, twice in one concert. Its premiere opened the programme and, after a brief question-and-answer between the composer and the conductor, Marilyn Brabbins, the novelty was instantly repeated.

If this is a continuing option offered by the orchestra in a debate with its audience about the presentation of new music, I am all for it. With a short work (less than seven minutes in this instance), one's ears are opened and ready to absorb more detail from the second performance, which attractively highlighted what amounts to an conversation-piece, the eponymous "hidden voice" that of a muted violin, viola and cello heard in relation to the other instruments.

Textures thereby set up impaled more directly when they were repeated, focusing attention on the delicacy of string writing in contrast to a more ritual sounding of brass and tubular bells. Otherwise Brabbins conducted convincing performances that seemed to meet with the composer's approval, and added another novelty: the *Sketch No 2, EBB* from the juvenilia of Benjamin Britten.

Its first public performance here followed a broadcast of several works from Britten's teenage years. This one was composed when he was 17. His own initials in the title suggest a self-portrait as the viola player he once was through the expressive association of solo viola (warmly played by Marilyn Brabbins) with the string ensemble.

For the rest, Piero Lane was a deft and scintillating soloist in the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No 2, but Ravel's *Ma Mère l'Oye* found its requisite balance of content and enchanted character only in the later movements.

NOEL GOODWIN

# You talkin' to him - or at him?

**Joe Joseph sits in as film buffs try to impress Martin Scorsese at his own press conference**

Some film directors, pressed into criss-crossing the world to plug their latest movie, find that when they reach Rome or Rio they have an interview schedule as busy as Butlin's in November. But there is never a shortage of people keen to schmooze with Martin Scorsese.

And there's only so much time available for him to do it in. The result is an A-list of profile writers granted quality time with him, one-on-one and no holds barred. The rest have to queue.

And do lots of homework. Before you meet Scorsese, maker of *Taxi Driver*, *Mean Streets* and *Cape Fear*, you have to read the production notes, and watch videotapes of the several interviews and press conferences that Scorsese has already given in various cities about his new film, *Casino*. The film, which traces the Mafia's move into Las Vegas, stars Robert De Niro and Sharon Stone. It's a truish story: only the names have been changed to protect the guilty and a bevy of mobsters on the FBI's witness protection programme.

So by the time you finally meet Scorsese, there is little you don't already know about him or his movie, apart from how much naval fluff he accumulates. But that doesn't stop dozens of journalists from all over Europe gathering in London's Dorchester Hotel, patiently sipping coffee and waiting to be funnelled in and out of his suite.

At last, it's your turn. But just as you are about to enter Mary's suite, along with five other European hacks, all you are wondering is: this: if I were Bob De Niro — nobody calls him "Robert", because that implies you don't just wish him most nights over a beer at New York's Bowery Bar — how would I approach this interview? How would I get into the part of inquisitor, because well, Bob and Mary have, like, a rapport?

And you are asking yourself this because Scorsese is the sort of movie person who attracts not reporters, but film buffs. For these people, waiting with their tape recorders outside his suite in five-

•

*Casino* opens in Britain next week

in your head, right from the beginning?" Scorsese's face is saying "What?", but his mouth politely replies: "In many ways."

Then someone says: "Would you reckon that *Casino* is a violent movie? I'm from Sweden," and everyone wonders if he's actually from another galaxy because *Casino* is so gruesome in parts that it's best not to eat beforehand: and you won't want to eat afterwards. It may be the first diet movie.

But at least it gives Scorsese a chance to get excited. Scorsese gets excited when he's talking about Mafia violence — which he abhors, but feels he has a duty to portray authentically.

"All the violence is accurately depicted," he jabbers, leaning forward, furiously flipping his blackjack chip, "to the point of even having technical advisers there — police, ex-hamsters — saying 'Oh yeah, he'd come this way, you'd put the gun here.'" (Scorsese points two fingers under the back of his skull.) "This way, three shots with a 22 in the back of the head, the bullet goes around the brain, it doesn't go out of the head 'cos it's small, but it stays in to scramble the brain, and then when he hits the ground you hit five more in his head. Silencer, please. You put a silencer on. You have to do that."

Swedes, apparently, aren't convinced you do. The rest of the interviewers groan serenely, as if Moses just recited the Ten Commandments.

"Doesn't it make you sad," says the Teutonic journalist who had noticed Scorsese's ironical way with music, and who was now distraught that anyone had the gall to criticise Scorsese's violence quota, "when they just pick these little scenes and you do the whole frank and provocative movie on an intellectual level or on a morality kind of level, doesn't it make you sad that they just pick out these, you know, on the surface morality?"

You could tell from the way Scorsese looked that he was. You could tell.

"You used music in an ironical way," someone tells Martin Scorsese. "Was that in your head from the beginning?" Scorsese's face is saying "What?", but his mouth politely replies: "In many ways."



"You used music in an ironical way," someone tells Martin Scorsese. "Was that in your head from the beginning?" Scorsese's face is saying "What?", but his mouth politely replies: "In many ways."

• Ned Chaillet on how Times man Mel Calman's last play made it to radio

## Late show for a free thinker

**Audacious, I said to Mel Calman. "Funny and audacious, and I don't know where Radio 4 can put it."** Mel's new play was on my desk at BBC Radio Drama, and one of the leading roles was written for a talking penis.

Mel had previously written plays about a man who wakes up one morning to discover he had grown rabbit ears, about a pawnshop debate between a talking saxophone and a ventriloquist's doll and, exceptionally memorable, a tragicomedy about the death of a rum baba (played by Richard Griffiths).

As quirky as his cartoons for the front page of *The Times* and his books, Mel's plays for radio revelled in the freedom of the imagination. Why shouldn't a pastry shelf in a Soho teashop — the model was Patisserie Valerie, where we did calorific research — be stocked with a flaky French éclair, a philosophical stud, and an irritable rum baba, reluctantly drying out?

And why shouldn't their fate be in the hands of a dithering would-be adulterous couple randomly selecting cakes as they endlessly postpone consummation?

That play, *Sweet Tooth*, struck a popular chord from the day of its original Radio 3 transmission, and has been heard around the world. The morning after the first broadcast I received a call from The Netherlands asking for the script, the name of Mel's agent and the rights (the Dutch apparently having their own sweet tooth for comedies of love and death).

When it went out later on Radio 4, we got a cheerful letter from the author Len Deighton asking for more of Mel's plays to be broadcast on Radio 4, so they could be heard even further afield in Europe.

*Heartache* was the name of the new play, and it was meant for Radio 4, but now there was no talking penis to consider. And the regular drama slots on daytime radio. And the regular readers.

Mel told me he had written the role for David de Keyser, and that when I offered it to



To Ned — love & lettuce from Mel

him I should reassure him: "It's a big part."

We fixed a time to meet for lunch on a Tuesday early in February 1994. On the preceding Friday, I woke to hear, on Radio 4, the news that Mel had died of a heart attack. He had been in the Empire Cinema in Leicester Square with his partner of ten years, Deborah Moggach.

Her later account in *The Times* of the drama of the closing of the cinema, the clearing of Leicester Square, of his ambulance and the journey to the hospital, would have appealed to Mel's sense of theatre, and of comedy, inextricably linked.

I spoke to Deborah twice over the next couple of days, and re-read the play several times. It had everything except an ending. Harsily, ironically, it was about the body parts of a man who goes into hospital after a heart attack.

The warring interests of the different body parts made a heart attack inevitable. Mel had himself had a heart attack and had banished smoking and heavy drinking from his life, drawing wonderful cartoons in support of a sensible life.

wrote for actors he loved: the Rum Baba for Griffiths; the Rabbit Man for Jim Broadbent, parts for Melinda Walker, Meg Davies, and — with music from his friend Ronnie Scott — *Pawnshop Blues*, another play for Griffiths.

Mel was the sort of man who would lead his daughters around an art exhibition backwards in order to avoid the queues going forward. His plays are like that. And, it must be admitted, not every audience relishes a cartoonist's spin on experience. But letters about his plays have never stopped coming in.

*Heartache* has finally happened because Radio 4 found room at night for the play, and because Deborah Moggach knew how to end the play, when real emotion and comedy could come together with Mel's broad comic strokes.

*Heartache* has finally happened because Radio 4 found room at night for the play, and because Deborah Moggach knew how to end the play, when real emotion and comedy could come together with Mel's broad comic strokes.

I will never stop missing moments with Mel: at a hotel breakfast in Edinburgh during the Books Festival where he and Deborah were being celebrated; at the Groucho Club where we plotted new plays at the Garrick Club, or in his Cartoon Gallery with Ian Hislop leaping on top of Mel's desk to applaud an exhibition of *Private Eye* cartoonists. The front page of *The Times* has never been the same for me without him.

But bringing his final work to radio is another kind of joy. Completed by Deborah, with Meg Davies taking the part written for her as the ex-wife, it also provides the moments where four of his favourite actors come on as the body parts.

True to Mel's intent, the play was offered to David de Keyser as a "big part"; his agent confirmed that he would rise to the occasion, and, yes, it plays it circumstantially.

What Mel would have heard, as the play-materialises on Radio 4, is Charlotte Green announcing: "Richard Griffiths as the Brain, Lee Montague as the Heart, Jim Broadbent as the Stomach, and David de Keyser as the Penis." Audacious, Yes.

• The author is producer of *Heartache*, which will be broadcast on Radio 4 at 11pm on Thursday

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### THE TIMES



10 MINUTES WORTH OF FREE CALLS

TOKEN 2









## Capriati steps back under the spotlight

Andrew Longmore looks at the surprise return of a one-time wonderkid resuming her love-hate relationship with tennis

**A**ll the right noises are being made about the unexpected return of Jennifer Capriati to tournament tennis in the Paris Open tonight, but not even the Olympic champion herself would like to predict whether she is ready to get back on the merry-go-round for good. Capriati is all of 19 years old now, with entries in the sporting record books and police files under her name and a highly-developed sense of cynicism that should serve her well if her professed new love affair with tennis is not to end in the same drug rehabilitation centre as the first.

In her first competitive match for 15 months, the American will play Sabine Appelmans, a left-hander from Belgium ranked No 26 in the world, whose surprise at the news of Capriati's return last week reflected the general disbelief of the players on the women's tour. Having played just one match since dropping her rackets in a rubbish bin and retiring to bed for a week after defeat in the first round of the 1993 US Open, Capriati had become just another forgotten wonderkid who could not hack it. The locker-room talk had long since moved on — Monica Seles's win in Australia, the state of Steffi Graf's injured back, Jennifer Capriati was yesterday's child.

"With Monica, we knew what she was doing, knew that she was practising and would come back, but we've heard nothing about Jennifer at all. She's been out for a while, so no one was talking about her, which is why it has been such a surprise," Appelmans said.

The official line, peddled by John Evert, brother of Chris and her former agent, among others, is that Capriati has grown up over the past few months and decided independently that she wants to play again. "For the first time in a long while, she is playing because she wants to," Evert said. "She's so much more positive about her life. She's grown older and wiser."

Paris in February, in a tournament organised by IMG, her faithful agents, seemed a suitable place to start afresh, far removed from the prying eyes of a middle America

"Only when her pudgy face appeared on front pages did people see the damage

to Jennifer. It's not important whether she wins or loses. She is just trying to do well."

That women's tennis desperately needs Capriati back in the top rank is beyond question. During her 3½ years on tour, she became the youngest player, at 14, to reach a grand-slam semi-final, in Paris in 1990, and was one of the few to match the groundbreaking power of Seles and Graf. Above all, her bubbling, infectious, personality brought a hint of colour and enjoyment to a game dominated by the sterner features of Steffi Graf and

tournament titles in 1995 on clay, were not going to take the shine off his achievement. Muster, always combative on court, was not going to take such criticism lightly.

"I am a little bit surprised because I think Andre and Pete are real champions," he said, "and they know what it is about to be No 1. I did not buy my points in the supermarket and I did not cheat anybody for them. I don't think it is necessary for them to make this comment — I give them respect and they should give me respect."

Neither Sampras nor Agassi were expecting Muster to break their cosy little rivalry for pole position. They shared



Capriati in happier times in 1992, when she struck Olympic gold and was the darling of Wimbledon

Martina Navratilova. The Women's Tennis Association even bent the rules to allow Capriati to make her debut in the month of her fourteenth birthday rather than after it.

Capriati's victory over the nine-times Wimbledon champion on the Centre Court seemed to mark the changing of an era, but only when a pudgy face with a nose ring appeared on the front pages of most newspapers the morning after Capriati's arrest in Atlanta in the summer may have prompted Capriati's return. Maybe she has finally found how much she does

incessant demands of parents, sponsors, media and spectators could do to a tender psyche. Almost overnight, Capriati slid from being a multi-millionaire, a member of the coveted Forbes Top 40 earners, to just another wasted teenager and her come-back return, in the autumn of 1994 in Philadelphia, confirmed the general belief that Capriati's time had come and gone.

The prospect of defending her Olympic title in Atlanta in the summer may have prompted Capriati's return. Maybe she has finally found how much she does

love the game. Maybe she needs the money. Nobody knows whether this will be another one-night stand or a more permanent affair. The players hope the latter.

"Jennifer coming back is good for the game," Appelmans said. "She is another big name and we need all the publicity we can get." Capriati, of course, needs as little as she can get; at least until she finds her feet on the court again and really decides whether this will be her life once more. "We don't expect anything," said Stefano. Nor, this time, should anyone else.

## Muster defends his right to head world rankings

FROM ALIX RAMSAY  
IN DUBAI

THERE are few things that can stop Thomas Muster getting what he wants on a tennis court. The weather in Johannesburg may have slowed him a little as he began his reign as world No 1 — Muster spent yesterday in South Africa finishing off a Davis Cup tie when he should have been heading for the Dubai Open — but the Muster bandwagon was stopping for nobody.

Certainly the recent outbursts by Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, belittling the Austrian's claim to the top spot in the rankings for winning all but one of his 12

tournament titles in 1995 on clay, were not going to take the shine off his achievement. Muster, always combative on court, was not going to take such criticism lightly.

"I am a little bit surprised because I think Andre and Pete are real champions," he said, "and they know what it is about to be No 1. I did not buy my points in the supermarket and I did not cheat anybody for them. I don't think it is necessary for them to make this comment — I give them respect and they should give me respect."

Neither Sampras nor Agassi were expecting Muster to break their cosy little rivalry for pole position. They shared

"All I can say is that I have won more matches on hard courts than Pete and Andre when they took the limelight. Muster dominated the early part of the year with a 40-match winning streak on the European clay courts, a run which took him to the French Open title. That laid the groundwork for his rise to the top, but it has tricked the Americans."

The rules state that only the best 14 results of the year count towards a player's ranking, while early-round losses can be discarded. While Sampras and Agassi seem to be begrimed Muster's achievement on clay, they have achieved the majority of their successes on hard courts and grass.

"The two former world No 1s who lie in wait for Muster in Dubai, Stefan Edberg and Jim Courier, preferred to raise questions over the ranking system rather than the Austrian's achievement. "There have to be questions about any system that doesn't penalise players for doing poorly in a tournament," Courier said.

"But what a 52 weeks he's had

— just look at the effort needed to maintain that."

Consistency on that level is something which has always eluded Goran Ivanisevic, the fourth seed in Dubai. He let his nerves get the better of him and he faltered slightly at the start of the second set against Jordi Burillo, from Spain, before reaching the second round 6-3, 6-4. However, he still admires such a virtue in others. "Muster had to win 12 tournaments and seven in a row, it doesn't matter if they are all on clay," he said. "He proved he is an unbeatable fighter. He deserves to be No 1."

Results, page 40



Muster surprised at criticism

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## Rain stops play for Marshall

**MALCOLM MARSHALL** the former Hampshire fast bowler who still the West Indies' leading wicket-taker, bowed out as a player from first-class cricket quietly yesterday. Marshall, 37, was forced to sit it out in the Centurion Park changing room as torrential rain washed out Natal's chances of beating Northern Transvaal and so retaining the Castle Cup, South Africa's four-day domestic competition, allowing Western Province to take the title.

Marshall said he had no regrets about retiring as a player. "I've been playing since 1977 and have thoroughly enjoyed it. But I just feel that this is the right time to go."

Marshall, who took 376 wickets for West Indies at an average of 20.94 runs, played 408 first-class matches, taking 1,651 wickets.

His spell with Natal has been spent playing and coaching and in April he returns to Hampshire, whom he represented for 15 years, as first-team coach. "I could probably keep on going but I think I would rather be remembered as a good cricketer than as someone who just hung on for the money," Marshall said.

## Geoghegan doubt for Paris

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

television yesterday lost out to television over live broadcast rights for international matches featuring the All Blacks, despite a personal plea from the Prime Minister, Jim Bolger.

Sky Television, which is 51 per cent owned by an American consortium and in which Television New Zealand (TVNZ) holds a 16.5 per cent

share, won the television rights to All Blacks matches played in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

The \$300 million agreement, whereby Sky has bought the rights from The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, was an extension of the deal between the New Zealand Rugby Football Union and News Corp.

France also have a problem, for Thierry Lacroix, their centre and goalkicker, is troubled by a groin injury. Although Lacroix played for his club, Dax, at the weekend, he was not at his best, and a decision about his fitness will be taken tomorrow.

Kenny Logan, the Scotland wing, will be fit to take his place on the bench for the international against Wales in Cardiff on Saturday despite inuring a hand in the Scotland Development XV's defeat by New South Wales on Sunday. An X-ray revealed bad bruising and not a break, as feared at first.

Keith Stewart, the Scottish-born Cardiff lock, forward, who played for the Development XV, has pledged his international future to Scotland. Stewart had been named in the Wales A side to play Scotland A on Friday.

New Zealand's state-owned

**CROCKFORD** St James's Street, London, in 1827 by William Crockford (1775-1844). "Quide", Under Two Flags, 1867: They had brought dice for hazard and were turning the unconscious Star and Garter into an impromptu Crockford's.

**CAPELINE** (c) A hat for a girl or a woman, having a wide brim often consisting of many folds of muslin or the like. *The Westminster Gazette*, 1899: "A girl in a black muslin capeline with a band round the crown and a big front bow of vivid cerise."

**DOLMAN** A sleeve that is much wider at the arm-hole than it is at the wrist. "Summer sleeves show that dolmans — the very draped and opulent sleeves — are back."

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**

1. Nc4 and if 1... Kc2; 2. Ndc3 is mate, as is 1... Kd2; 2. Nc3.

## The long itch called Emily

The Amherst Myth. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Except for a lock of hair, a daguerreotype and a brief written sketch ("I am small like a wren; my hair is bald as a chestnut burr"), there were no physical dimensions in Emily Dickinson's bequests to posterity. Nor did America's finest woman poet explain why she led a reclusive existence. And still not solved is the riddle of the 1,500 poems found in a wooden box in her home in Amherst, Massachusetts, after she died in 1886. In *The Amherst Myth*, the British poet Simon Armitage travels to Amherst. He pieces together some of the jigsaw puzzle, but great gaps remain. "We have a terrible itch to make sense of her," says an American professor. "The 100-year itch must surely be the longest in the history of verse-writing."

The Off Season. Radio 4FM, 10.00am.

Although I have heard only a few excerpts from Alex Frater's account of his visit to the Indian state of Goa, it was quite enough to persuade me not to follow in his footsteps. Not in the monsoon season, anyway. Frater's report includes a series in which travel writers from around the world hold their breaths as they stand on the beach with their bags and gone. Why Frater chose monsoon time, I simply cannot imagine. He sloshes about in muddy paddy-fields at night, watching the locals catching frogs by hypnotising them with torches. A quick beheading, then they are stunned alive, roasted and served to the well-off.

Peter Daville

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **8.00am** Cilla Black, 8.50am Europe, 9.30am Europe, 10.00am Radio 2, 10.30am Radio 4, 11.30am Newsbeat and 1.15pm The Net 2.00pm Nickey Campbell in the Afternoon, 4.00pm Dave Pearce, 10.00pm 5.00-6.00pm Newsbeat and at 6.30pm The 7.00pm Evening Session. **9.00pm** Film with Mark Kermode 10.00pm John Peel, 10.30pm Wendy Lloyd, 11.00pm Newsdesk 11.30pm Drama: *The House of Cards*, 12.00am World News 12.05am World Business Report 12.15pm *British Today* 12.30pm Your Birth Changes Shape 1.00pm News 4.15pm *The World Today* 4.30pm News in German 5.00pm Europe Today 5.30pm World Business Report 5.45pm Sport 6.00pm Newsdesk 6.30pm News in German 7.00pm News 7.45pm *Outlook* 7.45pm 7.50pm *Monday Night* 8.00pm *6.00pm News* 8.30pm *Discovery* 9.00pm *5.15pm British Today* 10.00pm *11.10pm invitation to the Dance* 11.15pm *Anything Goes* 11.45pm *Country & Western* 12.00am *British Folk* 1.00am *1.10pm Press Review* 1.15pm *On Screen* 1.30pm *Western Music* 2.00pm *Next Day* 2.30pm *Andy Kershaw* 3.00pm *3.15pm Sports* 3.30pm *Discovery* 4.00pm *4.30pm Europe*

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **8.00am** Martin Report, 8.00am The Breakfast Programme, 9.00am *Today's Magazine*, 9.30am racing preview, 9.35am *The Magazine*, 10.00am *Europe 11.30pm News*, 11.30pm *Newsbeat* and *1.15pm The Net*, 2.00pm Nickey Campbell in the Afternoon, 4.00pm Dave Pearce, 10.00pm 5.00-6.00pm Newsbeat and at 6.30pm *The 7.00pm Evening Session*. **9.00pm** Film with Mark Kermode 10.00pm John Peel, 10.30pm Wendy Lloyd, 11.00pm Newsdesk 11.30pm Drama: *The House of Cards*, 12.00am World News 12.05am World Today 12.30pm Your Birth Changes Shape 1.00pm News 4.15pm *The World Today* 4.30pm News in German 5.00pm Europe Today 5.30pm World Business Report 5.45pm Sport 6.00pm Newsdesk 6.30pm News in German 7.00pm News 7.45pm *Outlook* 7.45pm 7.50pm *Monday Night* 8.00pm *6.00pm News* 8.30pm *Discovery* 9.00pm *5.15pm British Today* 10.00pm *11.10pm invitation to the Dance* 11.15pm *Anything Goes* 11.45pm *Country & Western* 12.00am *British Folk* 1.00am *1.10pm Press Review* 1.15pm *On Screen* 1.30pm *Western Music* 2.00pm *Next Day* 2.30pm *Andy Kershaw* 3.00pm *3.15pm Sports* 3.30pm *Discovery* 4.00pm *4.30pm Europe*

### RADIO 3

FM Stereo. **8.00am** *Midday Report*, 8.00am *The Breakfast Programme*, 9.00am *Today's Magazine*, 9.30am racing preview, 9.35am *The Magazine*, 10.00am *Europe 11.30pm News*, 11.30pm *Newsbeat* and *1.15pm The Net*, 2.00pm Nickey Campbell in the Afternoon, 4.00pm Dave Pearce, 10.00pm 5.00-6.00pm Newsbeat and at 6.30pm *The 7.00pm Evening Session*. **9.00pm** Film with Mark Kermode 10.00pm John Peel, 10.30pm Wendy Lloyd, 11.00pm Newsdesk 11.30pm Drama: *The House of Cards*, 12.00am World News



## SPORT

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13 1996

TENNIS 42  
CAPRIATI SERVES  
NOTICE OF HER  
RETURN TO COURT

Curtain rises on troubled World Cup

England's first target  
is quarter-final placeFROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LAUNCHED amid hot air and ill will, the World Cup needs urgent redemption tomorrow, when the talking must pause for an interlude of cricket. And it is England, mere spectators through the days of rancour and rhetoric, who are charged with restoring the sense of purpose that this event has mislaid.

Not the least of the illogicalities of the competition is that the inaugural match does not feature either Pakistan, the hosts, or India, their co-hosts. Instead, it is a meeting of England and New Zealand, neither of them previous winners of the Cup nor conspicuously likely to change their habits now. It is a game England are expected to win; conversely, it is a game they could all too easily lose.

Given the flabby format, a defeat for England in this unloved textile city would be

anything but terminal. However, to lose their first game, with the eyes of every competing nation upon them, would undermine their credentials and expose their brittleness, reviving the readily dismissed yet sensitively recent memory of their demise in the one-day series in South Africa.

England have no complaints about their itinerary, and nor should they. After New Zealand, priced by the bookmakers at a scornful 28-1, they play United Arab Emirates on Sunday and Holland next Thursday. Even Raymond Illingworth, not a notoriously gung-ho manager, admits there is the prospect of three wins to seal a favourable quarter-final. "It has fallen quite well for us," he concedes.

New Zealand will have no respect for this view. They were the revelations of the last World Cup, devising and adhering to an inventive game-plan that involved opening their bowling with off spin

and following up with a sequence of slow, accurate seamers. They will probably retain a similar pattern here. What they cannot call upon, however, is the inspirational bat of Martin Crowe.

The present New Zealand side, led by the scarcely-known Lee Germon, is young and impossible to pigeon-hole. England know all about Roger Twose and Chris Cairns, and

they are aware of Stephen Fleming's powerful stroke-play. But much, like Nathan Astle and Craig Spearman, the opening batsmen, will be new to them, although Astle is well enough known to Illingworth after spending two years playing for his club, Parsley, in the Bradford League.

Dipak Patel, whose off-breaks with the new ball were so effective four years ago, is back again, as are Gavin Larsen and Chris Harris, the apparently innocuous double act who strangled the middle overs of so many opposition batters. Add Cairns, Dion Nash and Danny Morrison, and their bowling looks anything but negligible.

England will try to second-guess New Zealand's tactics. "In most circumstances we will use our regular opening batsmen," Illingworth said. "but if we think Patel will open the bowling for New Zealand, we'll probably promote a batter to go in first." This over-acted tactic, with a high failure percentage, would fall either to Craig White or Dominic Cork, with the option of Phillip DeFreitas if he is in the final XI.

Whenever England encounter a slow pitch, which means in the majority of their games, they are likely to include both their specialist spin bowlers, Neil Smith and Richard Illingworth. This leaves room for only two front-line seam bowlers: Cork will be one and Darren Gough, his zest and late swing evidently restored, should start as the other.

Whoever else misses out tomorrow — and it is likely to be DeFreitas and Peter Martin — one absentee will be Robin Smith. Injuries have already been unkind to England, with Cork, Gough and Neil Fairbrother all requiring treatment, but Smith alone is ruled out of the opening game and still uncertain if he has a future in the tournament.

England have been reassured that Pilcom, the organising committee, will look kindly on requests to replace injured players. They have received no joy on voicing their unease about the process of recalculating targets in the event of rain, or the potential problems in the insistence on restarting games on the reserve day if 25 overs of the second innings have not been bowled.

Theoretically, a team could score 300, have the opposition at 70 for nine in 24 overs and still have to start again — an extreme case, though not impossible. England's officials, however, have had to come to India to raise their doubts. They have found the offices of the organisers, Pilcom, a communications blackspot and estimate no more than 15 per cent of their letters, faxes and phone calls in the past year have been answered. The more one hears about this World Cup, the more won't stand it seems that it is starting out.

Yesterday, before the bomb was discovered, Inderjit Singh Bindra, president of the Indian Cricket Board, threatened Australia and West Indies with heavy fines — in the region of £2 million — for failing to carry out their commitments.

We Hall, the West Indies manager, responded to news of the lorry bomb by saying: "We have no comment. It does not concern us ... Don't expect any 'I told you so' comments from me."

Ironically, security concerns now centre on the exhibition match between Sri Lanka and a combined India-Pakistan team in Colombo today.

It was arranged to compensate Sri Lanka for the loss of two lucrative fixtures and demonstrate that it was quite safe to play in the city.

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The clock is ticking," Rick Parry, chief executive of the Premier League, said. "The players are organised, the agents are organised, and the danger is that only the administrators are not."

There was general approval for national associations approaching their respective governments for assistance in pressing for the inclusion of a sports clause in a revised European treaty. Yet, as Graham Kelly, the secretary of the Football Association, said:



England's new change strip, a radical new departure from previous kits and, according to the manufacturer, based on a denim look, was modelled by Alan Shearer and Tim Flowers yesterday. Report, page 40

## Europe plans for Bosman era

BY DAVID MILLER

THE administrative turmoil within football in Europe, with Uefa, continues. At a meeting of ten national associations from the European Union at Windsor yesterday, it was effectively admitted that the Bosman judgment, outlawing the system of transfer fees, was beyond challenge. European clubs are going to have to live with it.

The only firm agreement was a recommendation to Uefa, football's European governing body, to create a continental committee, embracing representatives of clubs and leagues, to help to resolve the crisis that is not of the EU's making: the future format of European competitions. The next executive meeting of Uefa is in London this weekend.

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There was general approval for national associations approaching their respective governments for assistance in pressing for the inclusion of a sports clause in a revised European treaty. Yet, as Graham Kelly, the secretary of the Football Association, said:

clubs' income should be distributed among smaller clubs as a replacement for transfer fees — was rejected.

The first concern of Kelly and Parry is to attempt to preserve as far as possible the domestic transfer system, as part of the fundamental financial structure of the game.

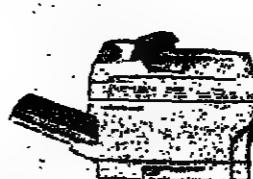
Kelly said: "We wish to preserve it, because we think it's fair, that it's in the interest of the whole game, of all clubs, and of all players."

Parry is also concerned that Uefa should not provoke European legislation to the point where it further extends its jurisdiction over the game. There is alarm, domestically,

at the recent intervention by the Office of Fair Trading concerning the television contract of the Premier League. The EU could impose further restrictions and Parry is anxious to have established something similar to the Sports Trust Act in the United States that allows sports administrators the right to determine television contracts in their own best interests. Where Uefa must be restrained, however, is in its pursuit of an expanded Champions' League. A champions' competition is for champions on the field, not in the stock market.

Vernon's victory, page 8

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**SHARP**

INTELLIGENT THINKING

## Lewis to undergo HIV test

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX LEWIS, of Britain, the former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, is to take a test for HIV. The measure is a precautionary one after reports that Tommy Morrison, his last opponent four months ago, may have tested HIV-positive.

On Saturday, the Nevada State Athletic Commission suspended Morrison hours before his bout in Las Vegas against Arthur Weathers, another American. The Commission did not give any reason, but it was widely reported that one of the tests was for HIV — and that Morrison had tested positive.

Lewis, whose next opponent is Ray Mercer on May 10, was not available for comment yesterday. Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, said, however: "No one knows exactly what's the matter with Morrison but all the precautions that are necessary will be taken. Lennox is due to have a full medical with the boxing board in March and HIV tests will be done then. I spoke to a doctor today — he told me the chance of anyone



Lewis: fast living

Swinburn  
making  
progress

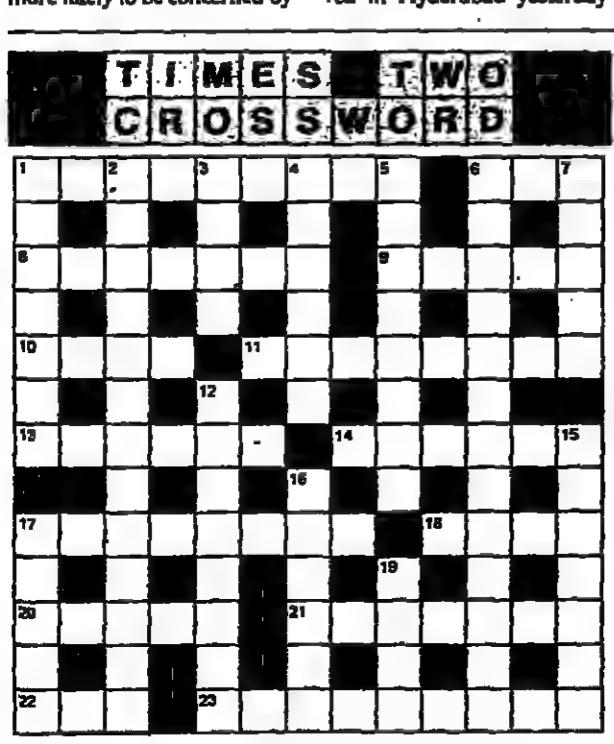
WALTER SWINBURN, the Derby-winning Irish jockey seriously hurt in a fall in Hong Kong on Sunday, regained consciousness yesterday. Last night he was under heavy sedation at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Although his condition was described as "poor", his life is not in danger.

Swinburn, 34, suffered multiple injuries when his horse, Liffey River, hit a running rail and an iron stanchion. Surgeons performed a major operation to drain fluid from his skull. He also broke a shoulder and suffered multiple rib and collarbone fractures. Fluid and blood accumulated in his lungs. Swinburn's father, Wally, flew to Hong Kong yesterday to be at his son's bedside.

Morrison never made any secret about his fast lifestyle, though before the bout with Lewis he said he had changed his ways. "I was a professional boxer — but I am reformed now," he said.

The Hong Kong stewards, concerned over a recent spate of falls at Sha Tin and Happy Valley, have blamed the accidents on jockeys riding more forcefully.

Andries hopeful, page 39



No 703

**ACROSS**  
1 Sticker for hard-luck tale (4,5)  
6 A wedge: a cat: The Rock (3)  
8 Myth: monster: unrealistic idea (7)  
9 Heights between Israel, Syria (5)  
10 Hire: sounds like single (4)  
11 Trifling (8)  
13 Arm-bone: a spoke (6)  
14 Feudal homage-over (6)  
17 Leave [item] in will (8)  
18 Consume in fire (4)  
20 Kingdom (5)  
21 Observation post (7)  
22 Bind: draw (3)

**SOLUTION TO NO 702**  
ACROSS: 1 Drunkard 5 Scan 8 Shift 9 Cistern 11 Urn 12 Huie and cry 13 Botany 15 Big top 18 Subsidie 19 Fee 20 Crooked 21 Tutu 22 Side 23 Tell-tale 24 Kitchen sink 4 Rocker 6 Crease 7 Nanny 10 Sentimental 14 Tabloid 16 Presid 17 Riddle 18 Socks 19 Farce

DOWN: 2 Disturb 2 Union 3 Kitchen sink 4 Rocker 5 Crease 6 Botany 7 Nanny 8 Sentimental 9 Fee 10 Side 11 Urn 12 Huie and cry 13 Big top 14 Kitchen sink 15 Drunkard 16 Presid 17 Riddle 18 Subsidie 19 Tutu 20 Crooked 21 Tell-tale 22 Kitchen sink 23 Tabloid 24 Rocker

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Racing, page 39

## Warren agrees to company ban

By JON ASHWORTH AND MORAG PRESTON

FRANK WARREN, the boxing promoter, was disqualified from serving as a company director for seven years by a High Court judge yesterday. The ban follows a four-year investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and threatens to cast a pall over next month's world title fight in Las Vegas between Mike Tyson and Frank Bruno.

Mr Warren, who recovered from a gangland shooting incident to become the UK's foremost promoter — Prince Naseem Hamed and Nigel Benn are also on his books — had been due in court on Monday to fight the DTI action. However, he consented to a seven-year ban in the face of accusations ranging from trading while insolvent to failing to file annual returns.

The disqualification order is linked in part to the London Arena, the entertainment complex in London's Docklands which collapsed in 1991 with debts of more than £20 million. Mr Warren had a key financial stake in the venue, and suffered substantial losses when the receivers went in. The London Arena subsequently reopened under new management.

Never mind the quality, enjoy the sex, defence tells New York court



Joan Collins' her lawyer said her literary work was "not unreadable, just unedited"

## Joan Collins just needed an editor, says her lawyer

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

JOAN COLLINS'S main ingredients for the plot of her book were "money and sex and power and sex and intrigue and sex", her lawyers admitted yesterday, when they said her prose was "not unreadable, just unedited".

Donald Zakarin, summing up for Miss Collins in the New York Supreme Court case brought against her by Random House, said the publishing group had claimed her manuscripts were not "complete", as demanded by her

£4 million contract.

With a flourish, he produced a definition of "complete" from Random House's own dictionary. It described the word as "having all parts or elements, lacking nothing, whole, entire, full". Quality was not mentioned, noted Mr Zakarin.

He accused Random House of trying to intimidate all authors with its case against Miss Collins. "They are saying 'Don't mess with us, or we will show the world the difference between what you send to us and what we publish'."

Random House is suing Miss Collins for the return of a \$1.2 million advance after it was dissatisfied with her manuscripts. In the week-long

case the court has laughed at extracts from Miss Collins's raw work. "Random House has attempted to humiliate her," said her lawyer.

Before yesterday's proceedings, Miss Collins admitted she was "mistress of adjectives" and told the *New York Post* that if she lost the case she would have to "sell a picture or a bracelet or something". She said that when her law agent, Irving "Swifty" Lazar, told her the size of her two-book deal with Random House, she had gasped.

Mr Zakarin said the only reason the deal went through was that Alberto Vitale, head of Random House, was "starstruck" by the well-preserved 62-year-old actress.

Miss Collins overcame detailed cross-examination yesterday from Random House's attorney, Robert Callagy. Proceedings then descended to farce when the defence tried to illustrate its closing arguments with large storyboards placed peripherally on a tripod. They fell to earth with a clatter, creating mirth in the courtroom.

Miss Collins might never have had any trouble if the characters in her book had been as colourful as those in

court. From the star witness to the irascible Judge Ira Gammerman, the case has provided rich material for a novel. Judge Gammerman, a classic no-nonsense New York judge, harrumphs, attacks verbosity and sucks his teeth in the manner of Alastair Sim.

Robert Callagy, the lead lawyer for Random House, evokes a pot-boiler anti-hero.

During one heated exchange he asked Miss Collins: "Have you no shame?"

Joni Evans, Random

House's chief witness who

was agent and one-time friend to Miss Collins, has described the actor's prose as "gothic and dull". Kenneth Burrows, Miss Collins's chief lawyer, is married to the feminist writer Erica Jong and is less than fluent in his advocacy. He often scans the public benches in search of friendly faces.

Miss Collins' "the undisputed leading lady" arrives at court in a different outfit every day. She said yesterday that she would use her court experience as inspiration for her next book. "Swifty always told me: 'Remember Kiddo, all they really want to know is who you slept with.' And to tell you the truth, I do have a few more of those stories left."



SATURDAY  
IN THE TIMES  
Ginny Dougray meets Martin Scorsese



Joe Joseph meets Victoria Abril



Free 12-page guide to personal pensions

## Climber killed as he saved wife on her birthday

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE sole survivor of an avalanche in central Asia has died less than three years later, in an avalanche in Glencoe. Paul Potter, married at Christmas, managed to save the life of his wife before he was swept away.

Theresa Potter had joined her husband on a climb because it was her birthday and she wanted to spend it with him. Mr Potter, 32, from Woking, Surrey, was running a training course for an adventure holiday company.

Only one person was signed up for the course this week: Alison Todd, 31, an inexperienced climber. She also died because Mr Potter made both women unhook their ropes from him and move away.

In August 1993, Mr Potter was the sole survivor of an expedition he led to Kazakhstan, when two British and two Soviet climbers were killed on the 23,000ft Khan Tengri in the Tien Shan range.

On Monday, he was tackling the 2,800ft Aonach Dubh, the most westerly peak in the Three Sisters of Glencoe range. The Scottish Avalanche Information Service has been warning of a serious risk all week.

Yesterday the deputy leader of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, David Gunn, said Mr Potter's final actions had almost certainly saved the lives of the two women.

He said: "I understand that all of a sudden, he realised that there was a real risk —

## Torment of one-armed man who killed boy

A SOLICITOR defending the one-armed man accused of murdering schoolboy Lee Kinch told yesterday of his client's "three-year torment" at the hands of "local youths" which led up to the stabbing.

Mr Potter dug a snow pit and tested for avalanche risk.

Realising they were in danger, he told the two women to unhook their ropes and spread out on either side of him.

Mr Gunn said: "This was the action of a very brave man, who knew exactly what he was doing. By spreading them out, he drastically cut down the risk of them all being caught by the full force. The two women would have lost their lives if it was not for his experience and knowledge."

Mrs Potter, 37, had been married for less than two months. Her husband's body was recovered yesterday.

Mr Gavan, who is unemployed, appeared at the court on a charge of murdering 14-year-old Lee on Sunday. Reporting restrictions were lifted on the application of Mr Linskell, who said: "I appeal for anybody who has evidence of what he has had to put up with to come forward."

On the night of the murder stones were thrown through Mr Gavan's windows. He chased the youths, then struck Lee with a knife, Maria Cort, for the Crown, said.

Asked why he had stabbed Lee, Mr Gavan replied: "Because he deserved it." He denied intent to kill or cause serious bodily harm. He was remanded in custody and a committal was fixed for April 9.



Potter: sole survivor of avalanche in 1993

## Company given two months to repair Austen film house

By MARCUS BINNEY AND EMMA WILKINS

THE owner of an 18th-century mansion used in the forthcoming Emma Thompson film of *Sense and Sensibility* has been ordered to conduct vital repairs or face losing the Grade I listed property.

Chandos House, built in 1770 near Harley Street in London, has been left empty since it was bought five years ago by a property development company whose chairman is a Nigerian chiefman.

English Heritage has given Fairgate Investments two months to carry out repair work, otherwise it will consider proceedings for compulsory purchase of the house.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, is concerned by the decaying roof, spreading dry rot and cracked walls. "It's unacceptable that a building of this importance has been allowed to fall into a serious state of disrepair," he said.

"We hope that the owners will now act quickly to repair



Chandos House empty for five years

the building or sell it to someone who will care for it and bring it back into use."

Chandos House, built for the third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, was used for London scenes in the Jane Austen adaptation. The interior, featuring original decoration by Robert Adam, became the townhouse of John and Fanny Dashwood.

Between 1815 and 1871 the house was the embassy of the Austro-Hungarian empire and was used for lavish

parties by Prince Esterhazy, the ambassador. It was last used as a headquarters and hotel for the Royal Medical Association eight years ago.

Fairgate Investments, chaired by Chief Akindele, is estimated to have paid £6 million for the house at the height of the property boom.

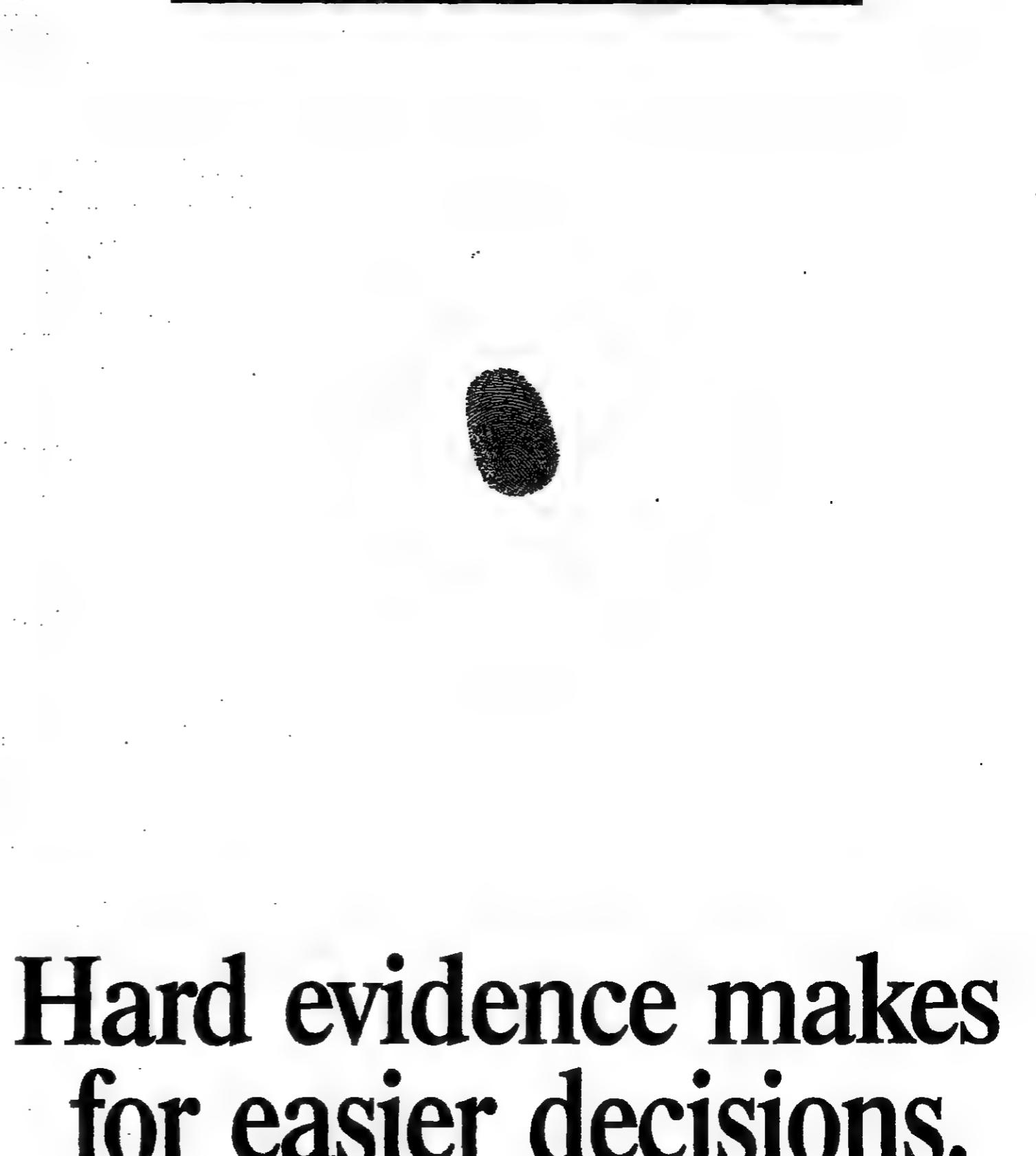
It is understood that the company is unwilling to sell it for less than the original purchase price.

The company obtained permission to convert the house to a luxury hotel but the work was not considered viable and permission has expired. After the theft of four Adam fireplaces from the house, Fairgate Investments is suing a security company for £1.5 million.

The owners carried out temporary repairs to make the building watertight last year after English Heritage served an urgent works notice.

If English Heritage succeeds in obtaining a compulsory purchase order, the price will be determined by the Lands Tribunal.

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Record company sets up helpline to ease grief of teenage fans at the departure of their heartthrobs

## Parents urged to sympathise as Take That split

By KATE ALDERTON

TAKE THAT, whose music and carefully choreographed dance routines caused many a teenage heart to throb, are now breaking them by splitting up. The four remaining members of the most successful British act of the 1990s insisted yesterday that their decision was unanimous and amicable.

Take That, who sold ten million albums worldwide and had seven British No 1 singles, announced their plans to pursue separate careers at a packed news conference in Manchester, their home city.

Within minutes of their announcement, some fans were telephoning local radio stations in floods of tears begging the band not to split. RCA, the band's record company, has set up a helpline to get them through the first few months of life without Take That. Fans have also been telephoning Childline, the national children's charity, to share their grief at the demise of their favourite band.

Parents were urged to sympathise with upset children: "They need to realise that young people have very intense feelings about their role models and heroes."

The band, a polished ensemble of pretty and polite lads called Jason Orange, Robbie Williams, Howard Donald, Gary Barlow, and Mark Owen, was formed in 1990. They had their first hit single in 1992 and won numerous music industry awards and the affection of



Williams said goodbye to the group earlier

millions of screaming fans. They notched up 12 top-ten singles, 14 top-40 hits and three albums, two of which reached No 1 in the charts. Their hit singles included *Pray, Relight My Fire, Babe and Everything Changes*.

When the band formed they pledged themselves to a pure life without drink, drugs or girlfriends. Recently, the "boys", as they were referred to in the music press, updated their image, using raunchy dance routines and wearing stage costumes which offered glimpses of their butts.

They bow out with their new single, a remake of *How Deep Is Your Love* by the Bee Gees, an appearance next week at the Brit awards and a concert in Holland in April. The band's members pleaded with fans to "hold themselves together" until the band members resurfaced in their new

base

</

# Queen Mother salutes agents who 'set Europe alight'



By ALAN HAMILTON  
AND JOHN YOUNG

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother undertook her first public engagement since her hip operation last November yesterday when she unveiled a memorial plaque in Westminster Abbey to Allied agents who died behind enemy lines during the Second World War.

More than 200 survivors of the Special Operations Executive, all now elderly and several in wheelchairs, attended the service to watch the Queen Mother, herself 95, unveil the commemorative stone to the 761 SOE volunteers who gave their lives, many by torture and execution.

Five years ago the Queen Mother, who is patron of the Special

Forces Club, travelled to the south of France to unveil a memorial to SOE at Valençay, near the spot where the first SOE agent was parachuted into the heart of Resistance country.

Looking well despite a bandaged leg, and walking with only one stick, the Queen Mother was joined by a host of veterans, many shadowy and unknown, but some recognisable, including Viscount Slim, president of the Special Forces Club, and the actor Christopher Lee, himself a wartime SOE agent.

The Special Operations Executive was established, with the approval of the War Cabinet, on July 22, 1940, its task being, in Churchill's words, to "set Europe alight". It was headed by Hugh Dalton, then Minister for Eco-

nomic Warfare, who later became Chancellor of the Exchequer in the post-war Labour government.

Like all the other "secret armies" operating behind enemy lines, it attracted men and women whose courage, linguistic abilities and taste for intrigue matched their lack of respect for military convention, and consequently antagonised the establishment.

Its creation brought objections from both MI6 and the Army, to which Dalton replied that regular soldiers were "not the men to stir up revolution, to create social chaos or to use all those ungenteel means of winning the war which come so easily to the Nazis".

SOE was at constant loggerheads with its rival, the Special Intelligence Service (SIS), and its

first substantive mission, in May 1941, to parachute members of General de Gaulle's Free French army into northern France, was almost frustrated by the reluctance of the Royal Air Force to supply the aircraft. Air Marshal Sir Charles Portal, Chief of the Air Staff, said: "The dropping of men in civilian clothes to kill members of the opposing forces is not an operation with which the RAF should be associated."

But, with Churchill's enthusiastic support, SOE grew in strength and numbers. Its agents were trained in burglary, safe-breaking, hand-to-hand combat and silent killing. The tailors of Savile Row supplied them with clothes that would not look out of place in continental Europe, and the Science Museum provided forged

papers. From occupied France, the group's activities spread to eastern Europe and the Balkans, and to the Far East, especially Burma, where intelligence activities proved important in turning the tide of Japanese invasion. Among its more notable tasks was the planning of the destruction of the German heavy water plant in Norway which might have given the Nazis the lead in constructing the first atom bomb.

SOE was staffed mainly by British and Canadians, but its principal task was to recruit and train local resistance movements in enemy-occupied countries. There were blunders as well as triumphs, and the price was often high. In June 1942 both the Czech and the Dutch resistance movements were betrayed to the Germans in August and September 1944 28 British and French SOE officers were executed in retaliation for Allied bombing raids. In July 1945 the survivors of a group operating behind Japanese lines near Singapore were beheaded.

Among the triumphs was a successful mission to France to fly out a number of agents, including François Mitterrand, the future French president, who returned to his homeland three months later to organise a new resistance movement. The value of SOE's efforts was demonstrated on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when, to reinforce the Allied landings in Normandy, it alerted 175,000 resistance fighters with the curious signal: *The violin strings of autumn wound my heart with a monotonous languor.*

Cave cut off for millions of years is home to unknown species that evolved without light

## Explorers discover a lost world the apes left behind

FROM NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, IN BALTIMORE

DETAILS of a lost world cut off for more than five million years and containing 31 unknown species were described to American scientists yesterday. Rising floodwaters forced the occupants of a Romanian cave to leave behind the normal rules of life on Earth at a time when man's nearest relatives were still living as apes.

The creatures have evolved to live in darkness, without photosynthesis capturing energy from the sun, and instead live on chemical energy provided by an atmosphere of hydrogen sulphide, which would be poisonous to most life on the planet.

They were discovered when the ape-like creatures, now humans, drilling the foundations for a nuclear power plant, unexpectedly broke through to the Mobile cave near Mangalia, close to the Black Sea coast, in 1986. A biologist, Serban Sarbu, began exploration when the plant was abandoned because of the unfavourable geology. His studies ended when he

said that the cave was just a small part of an ecosystem that spread underground over 100 square kilometres. "We are looking at the entire groundwater ecosystem," he said. "This particular cave is just one room in a whole maze of passages that are not accessible to us."

Most of the unusual animals are found in air pockets which can be reached only by diving. The theory is that they became isolated from the outside world when the level of the Black Sea fell about 5½ million years ago. At that time, man's nearest ancestors are believed to have been the "southern apes" of Africa.

The walls of the caves and the surface of the subterranean lakes are covered by a dense mat of microbes. DNA analysis confirms that species have survived, and in some cases evolved, range from bacteria to spiders, beetles and scorpions. The closest known parallels are communities of creatures living around vents on the ocean floor. Mr Sarbu

said that the Ceausescu dictatorship and were resumed only in 1990, after the regime fell. Yesterday Mr Sarbu, now at the University of Cincinnati, told the American Association for the Advancement of Science how all the food consumed by the creatures in the cave came from the energy produced by the oxidation of hydrogen sulphide, a gas given off by natural sulphur springs. The creatures who have survived, and in some cases evolved, range from bacteria to spiders, beetles and scorpions. The closest known parallels are communities of creatures living around vents on the ocean floor. Mr Sarbu

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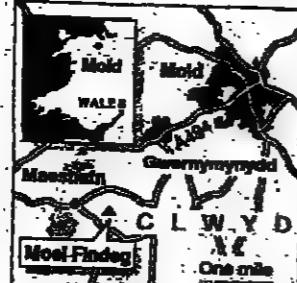
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Village wins 25-year battle to defeat quarry plan by buying hill with £1m of lottery cash

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Welshmen who won an uphill battle to save their mountain

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RESIDENTS of a tiny rural community in Wales have been awarded £1 million of lottery money to buy the heather-clad mountain that overlooks their village and prevent it being quarried for sandstone.

The 350 villagers of Maeshafn in Clwyd plan to turn Moel Ffyneg, a picturesque 24-hectare site that is home to badgers, snakes and rare heather moorland vegetation, into a nature reserve.

The villagers put in a bid for lottery money after they lost a 25-year legal battle to prevent a local family-owned civil engineering company, F. G. Whitley & Sons, from digging up part of the mountain to produce road-building materials.

David Scruton, secretary of the Maeshafn and District Rural Association, who helped to lead the battle to save Moel Ffyneg, said that the idea for applying for a lottery grant came from his wife, Ann, after she heard a programme about the lottery on the radio. "We are delighted. It is a very large

hill really, but everybody here refers to it as 'our mountain', Mr Scruton said. "From the top you can see the Clwydian mountain range; on a clear day you can even see the lights from the Blackpool illuminations."

The quarrying activity would have destroyed the mountain, Mr Scruton said. "They would have built a road 100ft wide right up to it. At present the road is not even the width of a trolley," he said.

The villagers plan to start clearing up the bracken and scrub from the pathways over the mountain, which has had no proper maintenance for 25 years.

Geoff Rutherford, landlord of the Miners' Arms, the only

pub in Maeshafn, said that the villagers were "flicked about the grant. The mountain is very popular with visiting walkers and ramblers as well as with locals. This is a very tight-knit community and it is a great feeling for everybody here to have won this battle," he said.

Stephen Salt, chief planner of Clwyd County Council, said that the council had spent about £100,000 in legal fees trying to save the 400ft hill from being quarried. He said the nature reserve on Moel Ffyneg, which has been designated an area of outstanding natural beauty by the Countryside Commission, would be run by the new Denbighshire County Council.

The money to purchase the

mountain has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund and was announced yesterday as part of an £11 million programme of 49 grants.

Peter Richards, a spokesman for F. G. Whitley & Sons, said: "The company has always appreciated that it is an area of outstanding natural beauty and that if retained it would be of immeasurable value to the public."

The collection grew so large



High hopes: some of the residents of Maeshafn yesterday in front of the hill they know as "our mountain"

## Award puts class struggle on the Internet

By KATE ALDERSON

AN elderly couple's collection of memorabilia about labour unrest has been awarded almost £198,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Working Class Movement Library was originally set up by Edmund and Ruth Frow in their semi-detached house at Old Trafford, Manchester.

The collection grew so large

that it was rehoused in 1988 to a Victorian building owned by Salford city council. Mr Frow, now 89, and his wife, 73, have a flat in the three-storey building. The grant will enable the collection to be catalogued on the Internet, as well as helping to pay for a chair lift and an overhauled heating system.

Students and academics

travel from all over the world to visit the library. Yesterday

Mr Frow, a former trade union officer, said: "Ruth and I believe that change comes about through knowledge."

The library, now a trust, is adorned with union banners and political cartoons from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The collection, monitored by the British Library, includes a trade union archive and original documents signed by Chartist leaders.

Thousands of books and pamphlets cover subjects from anarchism and the co-operative movement to Marx and working-class poetry.

Mr Frow, a former deputy headmistress, said they were "the luckiest people alive" because they were able to live among the fruits of their labours and use the library late into the night. They have produced nine books together.

## How the hunt for food helped to put words into man's mouth

By TUNMI VARADARAJAN

Why do we have language when other animals do not? Where do we get our words from? Why are all languages, no matter where they are spoken, so broadly similar?

These questions, which should intrigue the layman as much as the linguist, formed the bedrock of last night's Reith Lecture by Jean Aitchison, the Royal Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford University. The lecture, the second in a series

entitled "The Language Web", sought to explore the origins and evolution of human language.

Professor Aitchison said: "For centuries ideas about language origin have frothed like soap bubbles, then burst into nothing." She said the subject had long been "the focus of one weird idea after another". John Webb argued in the 17th century, for example, that Noah and his family spoke to each other in Chinese - and that it had become a serious field of inquiry in the past ten years.

The professor, of course, leads an

important part of this inquiry, as last night's lecture showed - and her next book, *The Seeds of Species: Language Origin and Evolution*, will be published in March by Cambridge University Press.

Professor Aitchison believes that modern humans and human language "probably came from one area of the globe" - Africa. The tectonic shift that created the Great Rift Valley there, she said, stranded

humans in the arid east of the continent, pressing them to adapt in order to survive. Herbivorous man took to hunting and eating meat; it was then, also, that he may have taken to language.

In this controversial part of her lecture, the professor stated that since "evolution is as much a case of suppressing some options as it is of selecting others, language may have been a lucky choice out of a range of alternatives". As if that

were not enough food for thought for one lecture, Professor Aitchison also suggested that the communication of information was not the most important function of language.

"Language is good at transferring some types of data, especially negative reports such as 'No buses will run on Sunday' but it is bad at other types, especially spatial information, where instructions such as 'Take the third turning on the right then the fourth on the left' would be much clearer on a map."

Language, she said, was a

"patchwork of efficiency and inefficiency". Its greatest strength is not as a "fact-swapping device" but as a thread with which to weave webs of "friendship" and "deceit".

The first she describes as a kind of "mutual grooming", where humans use language "to keep in touch with one another"; the second she regards as the way we "influence and persuade one another".

□ Professor Aitchison's next lecture is on Tuesday at 8.30pm on BBC Radio 4.

## Rock fan jailed

A rock fan was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey for the manslaughter of a neighbour who complained about Led Zeppelin's *Whole Lotta Love* played at full volume. David Ravenhall, 23, of Sydenham, southeast London, admitted stabbing William Clark, 44, through the heart.

## Back to the river

A campaign to rebuild the stairs and steps that once gave access to the Thames is launched today. The London Rivers Association also aims to find new uses for abandoned jetties and barges. The steps had distinctive names, such as Hoy Steps, Elephant Stairs and Pickle Herring Stairs.

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# Rifkind dismisses call for hard line at Europe summit

By JILL SHERMAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MALCOLM RIFKIND resisted demands from Tory Eurosceptics yesterday for the Government's White Paper on the EU to include radical proposals on the single currency and repatriation of powers from Brussels.

The Foreign Secretary damped expectations that the paper will take a hard line on winning concessions at next month's summit in Turin. He also dismissed calls for immediate clarification of Britain's position on a single currency, and ruled out using the inter-governmental conference as a stage for confrontation on qualified majority voting.

Mr Rifkind outlined the Government's position as two rival factions — one Eurosceptic and one pro-European — joined battle to try to influence government thinking on the White Paper.

The group of eight former whips Euro-rebels appeared yesterday to retreat from their previous outright opposition to a single currency, but called for a referendum. In their paper, *An Agenda for the IGC*, they say that a Tory government should take Britain into a single currency only in the event of a two-thirds majority vote in a referendum.

The rebels also said that they would not support John

Major unless the party promised to withdraw from the common fisheries policy and to establish an exclusion zone around Britain's coastline.

The group's consultation paper calls on the Prime Minister to veto any extension of qualified majority voting, to safeguard Britain's immigration barriers, to reform the common agriculture policy, and to stop any move towards a common European defence and foreign affairs policy.

Their demands were dismissed as "romantic nostalgia" by the cross-party European Movement, which published its own document, *Europe 2000*. Edwina Currie, the group's vice-chairman, said that the Eurosceptics came from "another planet ... from Walter Mitty land".

She added: "The sceptics' ideas are based on the view that Britain is a top dog nation and can tell the rest of the world what to do. That was true when I was a child but in the 1990s we are a competitor nation, a nation among other equal nations."

The European Movement had put forward positive and realistic proposals for reform at the IGC, she said. "We are not revolutionaries but passionate believers in our country and its role in Europe."

The European movement, chaired by the Labour MP

Giles Radice, called for a limited extension of qualified majority voting to cover pan-European research programmes, environmental measures and funds for poorer regions. It also called for a more effective EU foreign policy by allowing states to cooperate in joint actions.

Mr Radice said: "There is a danger that the Government's position will be all symbol and no substance — policy which will play well with Eurosceptics but lets Britain down in Turin. As a result Britain will be isolated, irrelevant, and unable to pursue our national interests."

Mr Rifkind gave little sign of being influenced by either group as he gave evidence to the European Legislation Select Committee. He suggested that ministers are unlikely to force a high-profile dispute in Turin over retaining the right of veto, and rejected calls for Britain to use European fisheries policy in making a stand against qualified majority voting.

He also dismissed demands from the leading Eurosceptic Bill Cash for the Government to make clear its position on a single currency and to use the conference to renegotiate proposals for monetary union. "I don't think there is anything to be gained out of dealing with this at the IGC," he said.

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In a move that would have sent Captain Mainwaring puce with rage, Corporal Jones, alias the actor Clive Dunn, asked for permission to speak yesterday at the launch of Labour's campaign to secure the expatriate vote at the general election. Labour aims to emulate the Tory practice of squeezing in a few extra votes by explaining to Britons abroad how they can register and take part in elections back home.

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sort of political exile," he said. "I ran away from Mrs Thatcher — we used to call her Vera Lynn with A Levels."

Although a lifelong Labour supporter, he joined the party only last year after overcoming a fear of political organisations prompted by a four-year stretch in a Nazi PoW camp. "I didn't want to join anything, not even the Boy Scouts," he said. He promised to return to Britain if Labour won the election.

Would Corporal Jones have voted Labour? "That is a very difficult question," he said. "But I am certain Captain Mainwaring would have voted Conservative."

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In 1992, however, only 34,000 of the two million eligible expatriates registered and even fewer actually voted. Of those, an estimated 70 per cent voted Tory and 20 per cent Labour.

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In a move that would have sent Captain Mainwaring puce with rage, Corporal Jones, alias the actor Clive Dunn, asked for permission to speak yesterday at the launch of Labour's campaign to secure the expatriate vote at the general election. Labour aims to emulate the Tory practice of squeezing in a few extra votes by explaining to Britons abroad how they can register and take part in elections back home.

Mr Dunn, 76, retired with his wife to the Algarve eight years ago after becoming disillusioned with Tory rule. "I am a

sort of political exile," he said. "I ran away from Mrs Thatcher — we used to call her Vera Lynn with A Levels."

Although a lifelong Labour supporter, he joined the party only last year after overcoming a fear of political organisations prompted by a four-year stretch in a Nazi PoW camp. "I didn't want to join anything, not even the Boy Scouts," he said. He promised to return to Britain if Labour won the election.

Would Corporal Jones have voted Labour? "That is a very difficult question," he said. "But I am certain Captain Mainwaring would have voted Conservative."

Labour MPs are being given information packs to distribute to supporters' groups while on party or personal trips abroad. Expatriates who have lived in Britain within the past 20 years can

register by post and appoint someone to vote for them by proxy. Direct postal votes from overseas are forbidden.

In 1992, however, only 34,000 of the two million eligible expatriates registered and even fewer actually voted. Of those, an

# German rejection of national service echoed in Europe

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Army is in trouble. Many young Germans are rejecting military service — 16,000 registered as conscientious objectors last year — at a time when Germany is trying to project itself as a military force in the Balkans.

The figure for conscientious objectors — half the normal intake of recruits — has prompted a debate about the purpose and future of national service in Germany.

Across Europe — in France, The Netherlands, Austria and even Switzerland — governments and defence planners are considering whether to scrap conscription. If they do, it will spell the end of a tradition that resumed in modern times with the French revolutionary armies of 1792. Some trace conscription's origins to the democracy of ancient Athens.

French plans for a fully professional army have so unsettled the Germans that the subject took up a significant part of the talks this week as the Franco-German summit.

Shrinking defence budgets

announcing that no new conscripts will be called up. All conscripts should be released to civilian life by August 30. In Austria Caspar Rinner, the Interior Minister, urged an overhaul, saying that it was enough for Austrian borders to be defended by "a form of police with somewhat heavier equipment". The Swiss are wondering whether their militia is the appropriate way into the 21st century.

The different levels of expertise and expectations will make units such as the Franco-German Brigade and the multinational Eurocorps even more of a misfit. As recently as the Franco-German summit of last December, Herr Kohl was still thinking in terms of conscription: he proposed that German "conscript soldiers" serve in the French Army.

Now even President Hertog has declared that military service is not a generally valid, externally appropriate principle. For Germans of the middle and older generations, this came as a shock. Since 1958 military service has been part of the democratic schooling of Germany.

Shrinking defence budgets and the changing nature of war have forced the rethink in Europe. The Netherlands has taken the first step by en-

acting on a proposal to

create a fully professional army.

The constitution says they

have to be treated equally with

conscript soldiers. In practice

they are better off: most week-

ends are free, they can wear

what they want, live at home

and (since soldiers have their

food and rent deducted) have

more cash in hand. The rush

to apply to be a conscientious

objector is only partly prompted

by moral scruples: for the

most part, it appears to be a

question of comfort.

The political resistance to

creating a fully professional

German army has been

shaped by the period leading

up to the war. Professional

soldiers, it is claimed, inevitably

need a closed professional

officer corps which could be

pitted against the political

class.

Military service has been

regarded as part of democratic

culture since the days of the

Prussian reformers: the right

to the vote, was intrinsically

linked with the duty to fight.

When Prussia beat France 125

years ago, Gustav Freytag, the

German writer, concluded

that French morale had been

sapped by the corrupt imple-

mentation of national service;

richer Frenchmen could pay

others to do their military duty

for them.

Freytag claimed that fairly

applied conscription made

countries less aggressive. The

German leader also appears

to have been convinced that conscription still has a function.



Paris fêtes the breadwinner

**Baguette** (Susan Bell writes)

bread for one year. Bread consumption in France is falling, particularly in urban areas. Parisians now eat

only 100 grams of bread a day, compared with 900 grams 100 years ago. This still adds up to an impressive 1.3 million baguettes a day. M Chirac eats one and a half baguettes every day.

## France aims to halve number of troops

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Defence Ministry reportedly has drawn up plans to cut troops by almost half in a drastic overhaul of the armed forces.

The plan, which will be presented to President Chirac next week, would reduce the army from 240,000 troops to 130,000, scale down regiments from 186 to 53 and close at least 150 garrisons, *Le Monde* newspaper reported yesterday.

The cuts would have a profound effect on Eurocorps, made up of troops from France, Germany, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg, which would be available to Nato if required.

The plan to withdraw the First Armoured Division is unlikely to play well with France's partners in Eurocorps, who have yet to be informed of the proposals. M Chirac is expected to unveil his "radical" plan for the French armed forces in March, when the Defence Ministry will present a new budget aimed at reducing spending of FFr10 billion (£1 billion) a year by at least a quarter.

TWO hundred miles east of Moscow, in temperatures that make the wolves and elk howl and bellow at night, an elite Russian Su27 fighter squadron is facing a unique challenge.

For the first time, the airmen of the 54th Fighter Aviation Regiment (air defence), hidden in the deep forests of the Nizhny Novgorod region, called Gorky before perestroika, have had to open their hangars to official Western snoopers, a British arms control inspection team who have arrived without warning.

Yesterday Major-General Geniadi Mukhametiarov, the base commander, himself an Su27 Flanker pilot, welcomed his British visitors from RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, and led them past an avenue of silver birch trees covered in snow to a line-up of 34 Flankers sitting in

sunshine, each stamped with a George and Dragon, a symbol of the base.

The sun had only managed to raise the temperature from -22C (-5F) to -14C (6.8F). As the Russian general looked on, British officers and NCOs who looked undressed compared with their Russian counterparts in huge fur-lined combat jackets and matching hats, crept into the bowels of the aircraft to make a note of the serial numbers. James Bond never had it so good.

The authorised 007 in this case was a woman, Major Margaret Roberts, 35, of the Intelligence Corps, second-in-command of the team of eight Britons, one Norwegian and one Frenchman, who arrived at this once top-secret base on Monday night to fulfil the latest phase of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty

(CFE), signed in 1990. Under CFE data exchanges between Russia and the West, the Savostleyka base was supposed to have 37 Flankers. There turned out to be 38 in hangars. The extra one had arrived recently from the factory. Under the treaty, the signatories only have to report increases of 10 per cent or more, so the addition was just noted down.

Russian pilots come here to convert to the Su27 Flanker, one of two aircraft — the other being the MiG29 Fulcrum — which have forced Britain and her Nato partners to develop even more sophisticated fighters to be able to compete. China has just signed a deal with Russia to manufacture Flankers on licence.

CFE inspections are a serious business, but there is also a degree of comedy. To the veteran inspectors who have

been travelling round Russia and the former Soviet republics, CFE also stands for "Charter For Eating" or "Continuous Food Eating". Under the treaty, the host country receiving an inspection has to guarantee to provide three meals a day.

The serious and the comic combine to build friendships with the Russians. Gone are the stiffness and formality of the bad old days. Once the work is done by the inspecting team, the generals, colonels and sergeants relax.

General Mukhametiarov, 45, who has been to the American Elmendorf air base in Alaska and has flown an F15, spoke without nostalgia of the Cold War days. He said: "Now I wish the British people health, wealth and happiness. But this is not an official point of view, it is from my heart."

Dutch Embassy officials last night refused to confirm the visa application.

## Lost Gothic angel is home after 20 years

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE Angel of Humbert, one of two beautiful, 13th-century, wooden statues that were stolen from a tiny church in northern France, has been returned after 20 years.

The "smiling statue" is one of the finest surviving examples of Gothic carving and its return marks the latest chapter in a saga involving French revolutionaries, a Belgian smuggler, a British collector, and now, in all probability, the European Court.

The statue was one of seven angels carved between 1265 and 1270 for Arras cathedral. Arras was the birthplace of Robespierre, the revolutionary leader. In 1793, with France stripped by lawlessness, the statues were removed to keep them safe from looters.

At least that was the theory, but by the beginning of this century the statues had been dispersed. Two are in an Arras museum, another is in the Louvre and two more found their way to New York.

The last two angels ended up in the church of the little



The Angel of Humbert, left, is back in France

## Bundesbank hints at euro delay

BY GEORGE BROCK

THE head of Germany's Bundesbank joined a growing chorus of hints that Europe's single currency might have to be delayed by publicly conceding for the first time yesterday that the timetable might have to be changed.

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, told industrialists in Frankfurt that delay would be preferable to any relaxation of the strict rules that will determine which EU states can join the union.

"The currency union, once set in motion, cannot be allowed to derail. If necessary, a delay is less problematic," he said.

The Bundesbank's opinion on whether workable monetary union can be created on schedule in 1999 is an important influence on German public opinion. M Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, was forced to acknowledge in Bonn this week that monetary union might have to be postponed.

ITALIANS were shocked this week by a spate of murders in which the victims were women. The crimes have led sociologists to speculate that the growing independence of women may be provoking a backlash in a minority of violent men. In several cases the women were stabbed repeatedly.

In a map captioned "Italy stained with blood", *Il Messaggero* summarised eight recent murders of women, which were also serial killer at work.

The preoccupation with the murders comes a few days after women MPs forced through a Bill overturning a Mussolini-era law which had defined rape as a crime against "public morality". The law, still to be passed by the Senate, makes rape a crime against the person and increases penalties for sex crimes.

The feminists dismiss the argument that crimes against women are on the increase

because women's liberation has gone too far in a country used to Latin traditions of male dominance and pride. "We are building a new culture of respect for women's bodies," said Daniela Monteforte, a women's rights campaigner.

Women's groups say crimes against women are not new, and much rape within the home has gone unreported for years. The focus on attacks on women and girls has also led to the setting up of a much-used hotline for frightened or oppressed women, called *Telefono Rosa*, which from modest beginnings has become a powerful campaign centre for women's rights.

Florence: A court of appeal cleared Pietro Pacciani, 70, a farm labourer, of 14 sexual serial killings attributed to a murderer dubbed "The Monster of Florence". He had been convicted of the seven double murders in November 1993, but repeatedly protested his innocence. (Reuters)

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# Zaire troops fail to make Rwandans return home

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of Zairean troops blockaded the largest Hutu refugee camp in Goma yesterday at the start of a campaign to drive the inmates back to neighbouring Rwanda.

The soldiers, a mixture of commandos and armed gendarmerie, prevented any of the 190,000 Hutus from leaving Kibumba camp, and set up roadblocks which allowed only essential supplies of aid to pass into the teeming settlement.

Other troops employed as a camp police force by the UN Commission for Refugees for the last six months were patrolling the shanty avenues of Kibumba, asking Hutus to return home.

"The situation is very tense, but calm so far. The Zaireans have given assurances that they will not enter the camp to force people home. Hutus are just standing around in groups staring at the soldiers," said Alison Campbell, a spokeswoman for Care, one of many agencies which are preparing relief supplies in case the Hutus cross into Rwanda en masse.

Kibumba and other camps in Zaire and Tanzania have become cities in the past year and a half. The Hutus have built guesthouses, bars and schools and started businesses. Their host countries have agreed with the UN refugee agency that the camps should be closed before they become permanent settlements.

The camps have also been hotbeds of Hutu extremism, where militiamen responsible for the genocide of a million of their Tutsi countrymen and Hutu moderates in 1994 have been training, rearming and

Radford's *The Postman* and the story of an unlikely friendship between a postman and a poet in 1950s Italy, swept the boards at the Oscar nominations yesterday. The star, who was nominated for Best Actor, saw nothing of the film. Massimo Troisi died 12 hours after filming ended.

The film, in Italian with Italian stars, was singled out for Best Actor, Best Film, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Music.

Radford recalled yesterday that Troisi's last words to him were: "I'm sorry I couldn't give you my best. In the next five pictures we do together, you'll see the real me." The director said: "I just wept. He looked like a ghost."

Other nominees, in a lean year for American films but a strong one for foreigners, were the British actors Emma Thompson and Sir Anthony Hopkins, and a talking Australian pig.

Nominated for both Best Actress and screenplay for *Sense and Sensibility*, Ms Thompson becomes a favourite for at least one Academy Award on March 25. Other

British contenders include Kate Winslet, Best Supporting Actress (*Sense and Sensibility*), Tim Roth as Best Supporting Actor (*Rob Roy*) and Mike Figgis as Best Director (*Leaving Las Vegas*). Sir Anthony's Best Actor nomination for *Nixon* was his third in five years.

No clear favourite emerged for Best Film, leaving room for two esoteric nominees: *Babe*, the surreal story of a pig which finds a calling as a sheepdog, and *The Postman*.

In the Best Actor category, Ms Thompson faces tough competition from Susan Sarandon (*Dead Man Walking*) and Elisabeth Shue (*Leaving Las Vegas*), Sharon Stone and Meryl Streep were also nominated.

The other Best Actor nominations went to Nicolas Cage, as the suicidal drunk in *Leaving Las Vegas*, Sean Penn, who spends most of *Dead Man Walking* on death row, and Richard Dreyfuss, enjoying a comeback at the box office as a music teacher in *Mr Holland's Opus*.

sheepdog, and *The Postman*. Radford's moving fable is the first foreign-language film to be nominated in the top category in more than 20 years.

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Two other British nominations were *A Close Shave*, for Best Animated Short, by the Bristol-based master of animated clay, Nick Park, and *Anne Frank Remembered*, for Best Documentary Feature.

Park has already won two Oscars and the number of nominations for *A Close Shave* matches that of *Waterworld*, the most expensive movie ever made. The Kevin Costner epic was nominated for its sound.

Refreshingly, the 5,043 Hollywood insiders who vote on the Oscars steer clear of bland, expensively promoted fare. *The Bridges of Madison County* and *The American President* won only two nominations between them. Voters also surprised critics who have raved over the deeply depressing *Leaving Las Vegas* by deeming it a Best Film nomination.

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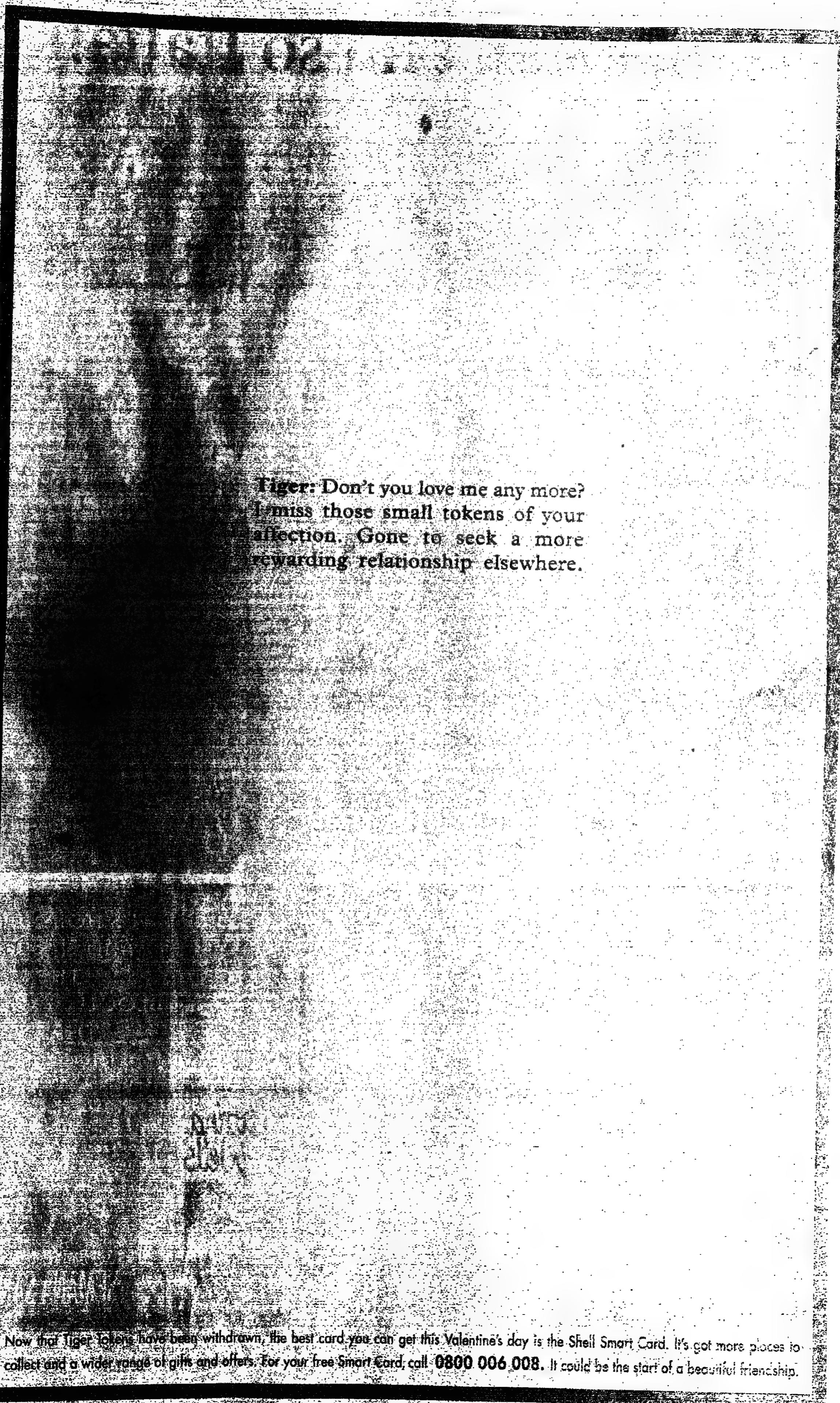
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**Tiger:** Don't you love me any more?  
I miss those small tokens of your  
affection. Gone to seek a more  
rewarding relationship elsewhere.

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# Lean, mean and so Italian



Candace Bahouth's *Lily of the Valley*  
From Ehrman Tapestry



Taken from her recently published book *Romantic Needlepoint* Candace Bahouth's *Lily of the Valley* is a forerunner of spring. The basket of flowers, with its pale pink bow, is set on a powdery blue background sprinkled with a shower of golden dots. The design is surrounded by a patterned border stitched in a combination of ivory and primrose yellow.

Measuring 14" x 14" the design is printed in full colour on 10 holes to the inch canvas. 100% pure new wool from the Appleton range is used and the pattern can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch. The kit costs £39.50 including postage and packing and comes complete with wool, canvas, needle, instruction leaflet and a black and white symbol chart for cross-reference. When ordering use FREEPOST - no stamp is needed.

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ITALIAN fashion is back in fashion. Around the globe the labels to flaunt are Prada and Gucci - two traditional fashion houses who have revamped and repackaged themselves with high-profile bluster to become the current darlings of the demi-monde.

However, away from the fashion spotlight another Italian designer, Nino Cerruti, has been quietly making a few changes over the past couple of seasons which could put his long established label, Cerruti 1881, back on everybody's lips ...

The decided debonair designer, who took over the family textile business in 1950, added men's clothing in 1957 and a women's wear line in 1976, looks to be back on top form with his updated classics. His latest spring/summer collection, worn on this page by the model of the moment, Stella Tennant, was a tremendous success when it was unveiled on the catwalk in Paris. Although the designer is Italian he has always considered Paris to be the capital of fashion. He moved his company there in 1967 and launched his fashion house at the Place de la Madeleine.

What had become a sober and somewhat worthy line at the tail end of the 1980s suddenly looks fresh again. The clean-cut silhouettes and less-is-more styling, the work of new design director Narciso Rodriguez (ex-Calvin Klein) and arts director Marc Ascoli, exactly fit fashion's current brief - what Cerruti calls "fashion reduced to its simplest".

The success of such precise cuts and understated styling relies heavily on the quality of the fabrics, which is where Cerruti's background in textiles and his technical know-how give him the edge. This season he features linens that shine like lip gloss, nylon that crackles like taffeta and super-soft leather.

Colour is also kept to a minimum: predominantly a monochrome mix of sooty black and milky white with additional touches of blue, ecru and camel. Cerruti interprets masculine tailoring in a feminine way, but the finished result is far from manly. Feminine jackets curve into the waist and trousers feature a fluid flair. Key wardrobe building pieces are tunic tops, strapless dresses, boxy zippered jackets, tie-belt jackets and sleeveless shell tops, everything reduced right down to the bone. Cerruti and his team are getting it right for the Nineties.

TM 1996

IAIN R. WEBB



ABOVE RIGHT: Navy pinstripe wool top, £149.  
ABOVE CENTRE: Cream saten jacket, £245; black pants, £179; black T-shirt, £99. Slingsbacks, £265. Mandolino Bahnik, 49/51 Old Church Street, SW3.

ABOVE LEFT: Black tuxedo jacket, £249; black palazzo pants, £199; cream shirt, £149. Shoes as above.

LEFT: Cream short-sleeved shirt, £175; cream skirt, £149. Shoes as above.  
All clothes by Cerruti 1881, available from Cerruti 1881, 106 New Bond Street, W1, and from a selection at Harrods, Harvey Nichols, and Selfridges (inquiries 0171-491 1881).

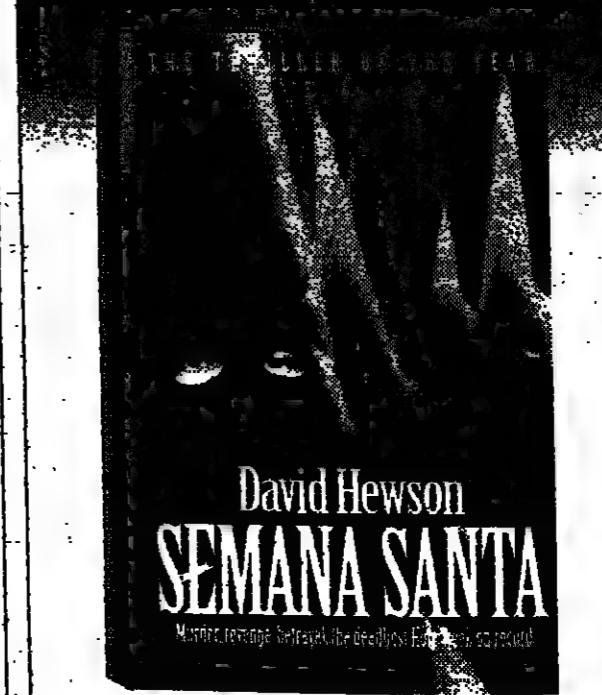
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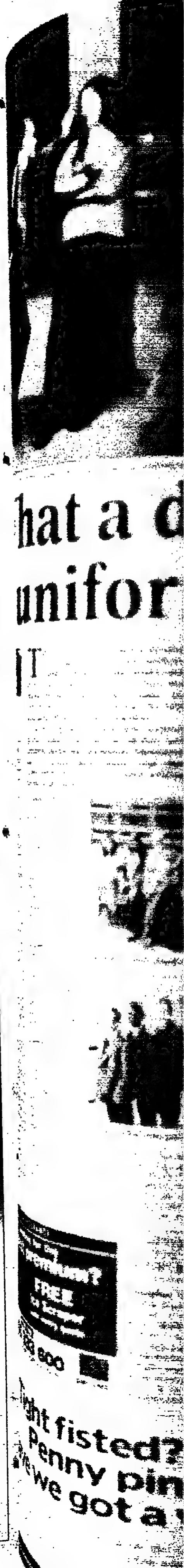
**David Hewson  
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IT'S HOLY WEEK IN SPAIN. BENEATH THE COVER OF THIS RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION A SERIES OF HORRIFIC RITUAL MURDERS ARE TAKING PLACE. A TRAIL OF BLOOD THAT LEADS RIGHT BACK TO THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR. READ SEMANA SANTA AND PROPEL YOURSELF INTO A WORLD WHERE EVEN ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD.

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Badge of honour... the Lister Community School logo. According to teachers, there has been an improvement since uniform was introduced.

## What a difference a uniform makes

### BEFORE THE UNIFORM

**T**he British used to have a peculiar enthusiasm for school uniform, happily supposing that blazers and gymballs would produce discipline and good exam results. Then came the Seventies, when schools across the land abandoned dress rules altogether.

According to its supporters, uniform gives children a sense of identity and creates disciplined teamwork. Opponents say it stunts individuality, and that community and hard work have nothing to do with clothes.

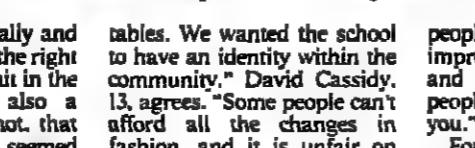
Trusnay: "Most inner-city schools have some truancy, and we did have a problem with pupils leaving within schooltime," says Mr Whyte. "When they were in their own clothes they were obviously less conspicuous and so locals would not pull them up."

Exams/results: The school averaged 20 per cent of pupils achieving five GCSEs grade A-C. In 1992, 75 per cent went on to sixth form education.

Parents: Alan Clark, chairman of governors, whose 16-year-old son Gary attends Lister, said parents wanted the introduction of uniform for a number of reasons. "With the cost of clothing generally and peer pressure to wear the right things, parents were hit in the pocket. There was also a perception, right or not, that schools with uniform seemed to do better in the league



Before: Lister pupils when fashion was king



After: neat, disciplined and ready for work

### AFTER THE UNIFORM

Discipline "I think the introduction of uniform has shaped the feel of the school — it's given students a common identity," says Mr Whyte. "The tone is much quieter, the image is more groomed, and it has also made a difference in terms of being an appreciated school in the area. Discipline has improved."

Tim Kerin, a fifth-year tutor who was initially not in favour of introducing uniform says: "At first, the uniform created

problems. We wanted the school to have an identity within the community," David Cassidy, 13, agrees. "Some people can't afford all the changes in fashion, and it is unfair on those who can't compete."

Cheryl Miller says: "You're not coming to school to look good, you're coming to school to learn and uniform helps with that. When the uniform first came out we used to get called boffin by some of the other students who didn't want to wear it but we're all used to it now and it's not a problem."

Tim Kerin, a fifth-year tutor who was initially not in favour of introducing uniform says: "At first, the uniform created

discipline problems because you had to pull the children up all the time. But once they realised it wasn't going to go away most have stuck to it well."

Trusnay: "Uniform has definitely helped," Kim Walton says. "The colour stands out so vividly that people outside can identify our pupils if they are out and about during the day and contact the school. We can easily identify them as well. Having said that, it's important to emphasise that you can still draw out the students' individuality in uniform — their personality still comes through." For Parvez Iqbal, the issue was simple. "You are more conspicuous in your purple colours," he says.

Exams/results: After a slight slump in results two years ago, the school had a 7 per cent increase in its GCSE performance last year to 23 per cent and the number of children staying on into sixth form has increased to about 93 per cent in the past three years.

Mr Clark says: "As a parent, I feel there has been an upturn in standards generally, with students working harder for exams and working more closely with teachers — and it all seems to have happened since uniform was brought in."

Mr Whyte says: "It is too soon to say if uniform has affected exam results, but we do feel that it, combined with other strategies such as after-school clubs, will ultimately have an impact on grades."

Parents: Parents agree that the uniform was designed to be as financially viable as possible and are in no doubt that it is cheaper for them, even if they have a number of children at the school. While a blazer costs from £31, sweatshirts and jumpers start at £10.95. By comparison, a pair of designer trainers, now outlawed, can cost from £20 to £120. Many parents also see the uniform as a security measure because strangers who enter the school stand out against the uniformed pupils.

"I think parents feel the school has more focus, and our students walk with their heads held higher," Mr Clark says. "They can look people in the eye and know they're as good as anyone else."

Discipline Deputy head teacher David Whyte says that while pupils have always been reasonably well-behaved, standards have improved since the introduction of uniform. "Previously the school could look quite scruffy and the tone of the place was casual with the attendant buzz that brings — kids found it harder to settle down to lessons."

"It was also quite obvious that some students were in the fashion stakes, while others weren't, which caused problems and anxieties for the ones who couldn't afford the right clothes."

Kim Walton, a third-year form teacher who started at Lister as uniform was introduced, says it definitely affects discipline. "When the students come into school in uniform they are rather like working people who put their suits on in the morning to go to the office — they go into work mode. We occasionally have non-uniform days for charity and the kids are definitely harder to teach. All they want to do is discuss their clothes."

Mahfuz Rahman, a fifth-year pupil, spent the first two years at Lister in uniform. "In our own clothes we obviously had more individuality, but that meant we were less inclined to settle down. While I sometimes think I'm too old for uniform now I can definitely see its advantages — it does help with discipline."

Cheryl Miller, 14, in the third year, says: "The ones who don't make an effort with their uniform are definitely ruder to the teachers."

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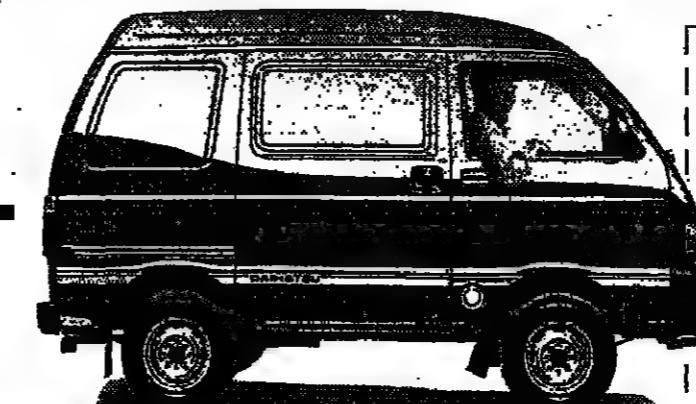
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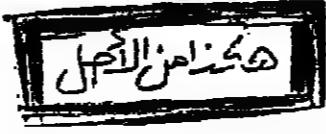
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## Mums, too, can go into mourning for Take That

THE posters came down a year ago, there is an inch of dust on the CD collection and the Robbie doll lies naked and abandoned at the bottom of the old toy chest. Nevertheless, there was a minute of silence in our house yesterday when Take That announced that they were to part.

The music of the Manchester band orchestrated the adolescence of my 15-year-old daughter. Their songs were as much a part of the soundtrack of her progression from child to teenager as the slamming of doors and the stamping of her first pair of Doc Martens.

And though we all knew Take That were never really serious musical rivals to the Beatles, they were, at least in the hearts of my daughter's generation, as important as John, Paul, George and Ringo were to mine.

It must have started in the autumn of 1992. Over-night the Designer's Guild wallpaper in her bedroom was lost behind a mass of posters cut from *Smash Hits* and *Just Seventeen*. Within a fortnight she and her best friend had changed their names to Mrs Mark Owen and Mrs Robbie Williams. Within a month her love was carved in stone. Well, actually "I love Robbie" was etched into her wooden bedhead.

For nearly three years she worshipped Take That and for those years her bedroom remained their shrine. Life, for her, was a matter of existing between concerts, television appearances and record releases (such was her devotion that she even bought every recording on CD, although she didn't have a player).

My own memories of the band are very nearly as affectionate, and, perhaps, rather less embarrassing than her own. I remember picking her up from a concert in the summer of 1994 — when she was just 13 — and asking her how it had been.

"It was very, er, rude," came her cautious reply. "In what way?" I asked nervously.

"They, well, er, simulated sex," she said.

"What with?" I gulped.

"The floor," she replied.

Like a great many other parents in the past few years I was actually quite grateful that the closest my daughter got to S.E.X. was a three-minute sequence in which Robbie and the rest of the boys made simulated love to a parquet floor. Fantasy, I have to say, like the one in "I love Robbie" carvings.

erable to the reality that several of her other friends had begun to discover as they grew up and out of Take That.

Indeed, boy bands have, for generations, performed an important function in the life of the pubescent girl. Looking back through the annals of pop music there is for every wave of teenage girls a band made to match them — from the Beatles to the Bay City Rollers and on to Bros. They are the ultimate example of safe sex. A gentle, occasionally shocking but never terribly disturbing introduction to the mating game.

The fact that my own daughter has now moved away from such things — divorced herself, as it were, from Robbie — is almost as upsetting to me as the idea of the band breaking up will be to thousands of girls. Because now I have to concern myself with the possibility that those bedroom fantasies might, in the not too distant future, turn into realities. Now I have to cope with the fact that the boys she likes are flesh and blood and not posters torn from teen magazines.

It seems rather ironic that the band's last single is entitled *How Deep is your Love* because 18 months ago my daughter would have said that her love for Take That was as unfathomable as mine was for the Beatles all those years ago when, in fact, it was actually a rather shallow kind of love. But a love, nevertheless, that will, no doubt, to her as Beatlemania is to me now. Take That will always be the first notch in her bedhead, however much she might now like to erase that "I love Robbie" carving.



Take That: that's that, at last

Take That: that

# If the fatwa has failed, admit it

Salman Rushdie calls on EU leaders to force Iran's hand

Even years ago, the Government of Iran set out to suppress a novel and to silence its author. Medieval religious concepts (heresy, apostasy, "unclean blood") were invoked, but the means of their propagation and proposed enforcement — global communications, international terrorism — were anything but medieval. The attack upon *The Satanic Verses* was sophisticated, original, ruthless and sustained. And it failed.

The anathematised novel, the book that was to be erased from history, is freely available in 20 languages. Defended with great courage and high principle by booksellers and publishers, and by thousands of individuals and organisations who joined in a determined defence campaign, *The Satanic Verses* has survived, to make the long journey home from the world of scandal to the world of books.

It has been defended, too, by hundreds of Muslim intellectuals, and by Muslim readers in many countries. It is being taught, I hear, in Damascus. The quiet voices of those who have liked this fiction are replacing the angry noises of those who loathed it, often (but not only) on the basis of hearsay alone.

As to the author in question, he has continued to publish, and to speak his mind: so we may at least agree that he has not been silenced.

I have tried, too, to emerge from the shadows to which I was, for a time, confined. To go on writing and to live more openly are my ways of showing that I have not been intimidated. Some commentators have criticised me for being seen in public; let them consider the "message" that would be sent by my remaining invisible. Do we really want to tell the world that *fatwas work*?

In recent months I have travelled to a dozen countries (no expense, may I say, to the British taxpayer), and have found, among readers, booksellers, even journalists, an atmosphere of wary celebration. And there is something for us warily to celebrate. The blunting of the threat, the frustration of the fatwa's prime purposes, has not been achieved by the intervention of states or statesmen. It is something we have done together: we, the readers, the informal international freemasonry of book-loving folk, with our secret handshakes, our hidden networks, our occult practices; with our stubborn, bloody-minded, bespectacled, ink-stained will.

Is it not regrettable, when the powerless have done so much, that the possessors of real power have achieved so little? For the fatwa has not been cancelled: an Iranian envoy to Norway recently restated it. Iran's rulers continue to contend that they can do nothing about either the edict or the obscene financial reward for its fulfilment. Even the EU's minimum-terms demand — that Iran sign a document guaranteeing not to carry out the fatwa, and to desist from encouraging others

The EU should swiftly fulfil its promise

True, the Iranians have repeatedly said that the fatwa issue is "over", "solved", "ancient history", a "dead letter". Last Sunday, an unnamed Iranian diplomat in London, "speaking with the full authority of the Rafsanjani Government", was quoted as giving me an "assurance" that Iran would send nobody to kill me, so I could "resume a normal life".

In the past nine months, such statements have been made by President Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Velayati and the Speaker of the Majlis (and probable next president) Nateq-Nouri. It is a welcome change of tune. But the refusal to bring this long world crisis to a formal, signed and sealed conclusion must make us deeply sceptical about the singers' credibility.

The crux of the matter is not, finally, whether I am able to "resume a normal life". It is that the State of Iran, in an edict issued by its Head of State and repeatedly endorsed by its entire leadership, embarked on a course of censorship by state terrorism, whose targets were the free peoples of other nations. That was a grave and criminal endeavour. And the fatwa, let us remember, has been implemented. Professor Hiroshi Igashii, the Japanese translator of *The Satanic Verses*, was murdered. Dr Ettore Caprioli, the Italian translator, was assaulted, and William Nygaard, the novel's Norwegian publisher, was shot. Happily, both recovered.

The EU has solemnly undertaken to resolve this problem. I call upon it to do so with extreme urgency. What we, as citizens, could do to stand up for freedom and against intimidation, we have done. After seven years, it is time for our leaders to follow our lead.

## Ex-rated

AFTER THE CURSE of *Hello!* comes the curse of *Tinder*. The society creatures who decorate its social column, "Byzantine", enjoy a marriage failure rate which is considerably worse than the national average. Half of the sparkling couples who pose for the glossy end up divorcing. Among those who have floundered in the *Tinder* theme park are the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Aga Khan and the Begum Aga Khan, as well as Mick and Bianca Jagger.

Short courtships and engagements are the hallmarks of these champagne-swilling, says the magazine's social editor, Ewa Lewis. "The column features people like the Earl of Lichfield, Lulu de la Falaise and Lady Leonora Grosvenor. They are people who live in the fast lane and have high expectations of life that constantly fall short," she says. "They tend to be glamorous and good-looking and therefore have larger choices in life." Poor darlings.

## Don't cry

HE MAY HAVE caused diplomatic



## When big is ugly

IRA bombs can't block reconciliation in Ulster if London ignores them

There was no bomb. There was no horror. There was no so-called ceasefire collapse. There was no sudden coming together of London and Dublin. There were no plaudits from Washington and no policemen on London's streets, arming weapons, boasting "enhanced security" and frightening tourists. There was silence. There was nothing.

Sometimes I believe we should pretend not to know of an outrage. Without knowledge, there can be no terror. A bomb would be a random incident, affecting only its immediate victims. Not until a blast ignites the gas of publicity is there a holocaust. It is the holocaust that devastates and demoralises nations.

In Northern Ireland this week, as last, people went about their business. They worked and played, they learned and taught, they shopped and travelled. They were sad about the London bomb, marched for peace and balanced clouds and silver linings. As Ulster people have always done, Catholics conversed with Protestants. They worked together building hospitals, mending roads, running buses, fixing street lights. Republican and Unionist, Sinn Fein and loyalist, Derry and Belfast city councils bartered such power as the Unionist direct rule had been sustained only by stripping the Unionist majority of all power over the nationalist minority. British troops could uphold the Union, but the price was that Unionists could never again enjoy ascendancy over nationalists.

Each search for a settlement has implied some qualification of that understanding. All "talks about talismans" have presaged the replacement of direct rule by some new assembly. They have implied some devolved Northern Ireland administration in which, by virtue of its majority, the Unionist interest would inevitably predominate. This prospect has kept Unionism sweet over years of apparent British concessions to the IRA. Yet whatever new administration is agreeable to the Unionists cannot be agreeable at least to the IRA. The latter does not recognise Northern Ireland, and certainly would not recognise an executive with a Unionist majority, whatever its checks and balances. This latest Peace Process had one day to confront this, as had all the others. Mr Adams might sit down with Ian Paisley and his friends, but as soon as one side started talking, the other would walk out. The circle cannot be squared.

Last Friday I joined many in feeling sorry for Mr Major. We had known that the time for a sort of ceasefire had arrived, that the IRA needed to pause and regroup. Mr Adams's generation of IRA leaders was now ageing and wanted to see their children respectfully through

college. But Mr Major had shown a new commitment to cleansing this darkest blot in Britain's modern history. In August 1994, he won the province a respite. Last week's bomb appeared to blow it away, and with it Mr Major's most obvious chance for glory. The man deserved sympathy.

Yet a gulf divided intention and implementation. At the time of the 1993 declaration, sceptics pointed out that there was never any way of some all-Ulster constitution marrying the IRA's historic demand for a "united Ireland with the Unionist insistence on the Union. British direct rule had

been sustained only by stripping the Unionist majority of all power over the nationalist minority. British troops could uphold the Union, but the price was that Unionists could never again enjoy ascendancy over nationalists.

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This always discredited the route

sought by Mr Major, not to mention the Irish leader John Bruton, President Clinton, the Westminster Parliament, Northern Ireland politicians, the media and assorted pundits. They have danced down this latest Yellow Line to live outside the law you must be honest.

### Fan dance

JOHN MAJORS' reputation as a peace broker is undiminished, despite the IRA outrage in London's Docklands last Friday. The Prime Minister's office has been besieged by Take That fans who want him to intervene and bring members of the pop group, which announced yesterday that it was splitting up, to the negotiating table.

After hearing Rushdie out, the Minister got on the blower to the Ministry of the Interior and demanded that Argentinian police be deployed to ensure that the film, directed by Alan Parker, could proceed unimpeded.

"I wouldn't say it was all down to the meeting," says a diplomatic source, "but it was a well-timed conversation at a senior level."

The mother of the convicted insurance fraudster Darius Guppy has burst into song to celebrate his release. Shusha Guppy is launching a compact disc and has included two Bob Dylan songs — but not the number *Absolutely Sweet*.



Shusha Guppy: Darius's mother

The Take That fan club got through by telephone to Major's private office yesterday but to no avail. It was gently explained that although he was a powerful man this was a national tragedy in which he could not interfere.

### Whippy lash

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE has suffered the final indignity. With the Scott report just hours away, he was approached in front of TV cameras the other day for help in the exportation to Iraq of a tank converted into an ice-cream van.

Waldegrave was approached for a Channel 4 television show by the comedian Mark Thomas, who parked an armoured plated "Mr Whippy" tank adorned with ice-cream cones outside his home. Thomas asked how he could ship it to a friend in the ice-cream business in Iraq. The Treasury Minister was not amused. "This is a very stupid stunt," he snapped.

### Not cricket

THE LESS salubrious menswear shops have for many years been selling MCC ties with the famous red and yellow stripes to non-members, strictly against the rules. But

Scott, Whitehall and us  
Sir Humphrey is doomed, says Sue Cameron

More significant than any ministerial heads rolling in the dust this week could be the impact of Sir Richard Scott's findings on the machinery of government itself. The signs are that Whitehall may be about to sustain a bigger shock than any since the great Northcote-Trevelyan reforms of the 1850s, which ended jobbery and corruption in the Civil Service.

The real issue Scott raises is who knew what and when. It is whether civil servants have an allegiance to the public interest beyond their duty to ministers. The inquiry has found disturbing indications that the proper relationship between civil servants and ministers has become blurred. There is uncertainty about when officials can and should say no to ministers.

The difficulties of mounting a robust defence of Whitehall's methods were illustrated by a chance remark by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. As he gave evidence to the inquiry two years ago, he found himself trying to draw a distinction between "accountability" and "responsibility" to Parliament. So great were the difficulties of definition that at one point he had to acknowledge defeat. "We just do not have a blame-free word," he admitted.

The admission was worthy of Sir Humphrey himself. Yet Humphrey's richly comic sophistry can strike a sour note when it is echoed in real life — as it was all too often during the Scott hearings. The inquiry was told that "the truth is a difficult concept", that parliamentary answers were an "art form, not a means of communication".

Now the risk is that civil servants will be regarded less as people of goodwill serving the public interest from above the political fray, and more as mercenaries who can be put into the front line of the political battle. The Scott report is expected to tell the tale of a Rolls-Royce administrative machine that set up, it is likely to expose weaknesses in Whitehall communications, a lack of co-ordination across departments and an obsession with secrecy that led senior mandarins to shroud facts from each other — let alone the outside world.

The Scott findings come while the Civil Service is still adjusting to a breakthrough programme of reform which split the old monolithic Whitehall into more than a hundred semi-autonomous agencies. The report will be a watershed — even if it exonerates all the officials of bad faith. It is not so much the revelations about Whitehall's semantic games or its failure to tell Commons communes the whole truth that has caused dismay. Many officials certainly regard such conduct as par for the course. But the prosecution of three businessmen for doing something that some people within the government machine knew about and approved has shamed even insiders.

Whatever the detailed findings about the role of individuals, Sir Richard Scott's report will leave the Civil Service with a blighted reputation. Changes in the structure, the rules and the very ethos of the Civil Service add up to the death of Sir Humphrey's Whitehall. Sir Humphrey was mendacious, Machiavellian and ruthless. Yet he was held in affection because although he did not always get things right, he always believed he was acting in the public interest.

He would have found a way to say no to any minister who tried to flout that interest. He would have warned of the embarrassment if word ever got out. He would have manipulated other politicians to put pressure on his own minister. If all else failed, he would have threatened to record his formal disagreement with his minister — as real-life civil servants, including Lord Armstrong, have done in the past.

The changes in Whitehall have been brought about partly by a shift in the political climate that is putting greater strains on the loyalty of civil servants — and which is certainly not their fault. It is hard indeed for officials to draft speeches or parliamentary answers or press releases for ministers without

One of the results of the Scott report will surely be reforms which clarify the mutual responsibilities of civil servants and ministers. There must also be changes in the rules that call for blanket secrecy to cover all advice from civil servants to ministers. Yet such moves could make ministers and civil servants more wary of each other. Politicians might decide it would be more comfortable to have committed outsiders in key advisory posts.

The British public is still old-fashioned enough to expect its officials to be honourable. Yet in the welter of self-justification, denial and evasion, not one of the leading figures has stepped forward to apologise. Neither ministers nor Whitehall will openly express regret for an episode which even a former mandarin such as Sir Charles Powell has called "a shambles". The public will draw its own conclusions.

The author's film about the impact of Scott on Whitehall will be shown on *Newsnight* tonight on BBC2.



"I didn't even get a card from my stalker"

application to the Trade Marks Registry to register its egg and bacon colours.

Colonel Stevenson, a former MCC Secretary of 15 years standing, says that sales of ties and braces to non-members is an old problem. "At the authorised shops, MCC membership cards must be shown before purchase," he says. "Not everybody likes the distinctive colour scheme, however. The Duke of Edinburgh once said they were 'bloody awful colours'."

P.H.S.

## EUROMYTHS TWO

Single market and single currency: another Brussels fallacy

To judge by his dismissal of the European Commission economist, Bernard Connolly, for the crime of talking sense about monetary union, Jacques Santer does not much like the truth. The kindest interpretation of the myth about Europe which the President of the European Commission has made his rallying cry is that he is tolerant of economic lunacy, provided it serves a political purpose. The myth is this: that the European single market is in danger of destruction if the euro is not introduced in January 1999 as planned. Does Europe face a choice between a single currency or the single market, able to have both or neither?

If the answer were yes, it would be a powerful if rather negative argument for EMU. Mr Santer hopes that it will be powerful enough to sustain the French and other struggling countries through their unnecessary and damaging martyrdom to the religion of EMU. However, the case he takes is improbable in the extreme and the opposite may well be more accurate. The argument rests on the following logic. If in a single market, nations can lower their costs by "competitive devaluation" of their currencies, they will. Other states will counter this by restoring the non-tariff barriers and weighty tariffs that the 1992 process swept away. Ergo, the single market would be eroded if not eliminated. The euro would make such currency tactics impossible and hence preserve free and open trade.

The emergence of Mr Santer's argument at this stage is rather curious. When the single market enterprise was launched in the mid-1980s the Commission was notably silent on the implications it might have for exchange rates. Indeed, of the numerous debilitating trade barriers that the 1992 reforms would tackle, none of the published offenders included the transaction costs of maintaining separate currencies. All the various Delors reports on EMU postulated the Single European Act. Today's emphasis on a link between the two seems somewhat convenient, not to say impromptu.

There are a number of difficulties with the Santer analysis. At a technical level it is far from clear that the exit of the pound and ira

from the ERM, or the devaluations of the peseta and escudo within the system, can be described as "competitive" in the predatory sense. Indeed, the devaluations of all these currencies were actively demanded by the Bundesbank. These currencies were all substantially overvalued inside the ERM and free floating or devaluation restored them to a position judged more appropriate not only by the markets, but also by their national governments and even the Bundesbank.

There is another even more fundamental inconsistency in the Commission's case. According to its own officially sanctioned evaluation of the impact of monetary union — *One Market, One Money* — competitive devaluations cannot succeed. All they produce is inflation. How the single market could be imperilled by states adopting a strategy that the Commission believes to be ineffective is thus a mystery. Indeed it is absolutely central to the logic of a single currency that countries cannot engineer prosperity by debasing their coinage, if they could, why would they sacrifice that option by losing control over their exchange rate?

As Sir Leon Brittan, the Commissioner with the greatest responsibility for free trade, and commitment to it, has stated, the single market is a separate matter from any proposed European currency. The single market is enshrined in laws and agreements, ranging from the Single European Act to the Gatt treaty, which are not only legally enforceable, but seen to be mutually beneficial by all the main European states. As a political proposition, it beggars belief that a great trading nation such as Germany would want to deny its exporters the benefits of a single market out of pique at the failure of EMU.

To link the single market with the single currency in the manner of Mr Santer is thus politically unrealistic, as well as intellectually dishonest. The question of whether to introduce the euro should be considered on its merits, which include the very real issues of its economic costs. To raise the mythical prospect that internal commerce will collapse unless the euro prevails does nothing but confuse the real arguments.

## SEVEN YEARS ON

Salman Rushdie still lives under sentence of death

Seven years have passed since the word "fatwa", then in hesitant italics, entered everyday English. Seven years to the day, as the target of that fatwa writes on the page opposite, "the Government of Iran set out to suppress a novel and to silence its writer". Seven years on, Salman Rushdie still lives under sentence of death.

On February 14, 1989, the late Ayatollah Khomeini, then Iran's undisputed spiritual and political leader, decreed that Mr Rushdie should die for the "blasphemy" published in *The Satanic Verses*. The ayatollah, flouting all norms of international law and civilisation, urged "brave Muslims" to "quickly kill" Mr Rushdie and all those involved in the publication of the novel.

His ghoulish exhortation was not ignored: to date, the Japanese translator of *The Satanic Verses* has been killed, the Italian translator brutally assaulted and its Norwegian publisher shot. Mr Rushdie, as the whole world now knows so well, has had to live a life of no fixed address, protected round the clock, guarding against the death which the ayatollah had decreed.

But Mr Rushdie has continued to write, and to express his bravery through his books. How easy it would have been — and how understandable — to let the ink run dry, to unplug the word processor, to twist writing-paper into anguished balls, to let fear scorch his mind and his imagination. Mr Rushdie did not do that. Instead, he

wrote, securing the comradeship of those who read books and allowing that bond to strengthen his resolve.

From that resolve was born *The Moor's Last Sigh*, his latest novel, a book that is for many of us his finest creation yet. It should, we believe, have won last year's Booker Prize; not, as we pointed out at the time, for its having been written in conditions that make the air chill, but for his creation of a never-before-seen world.

"Here I stand. Couldn't have done it differently," says Moraes Zogoiby, the book's narrator. Yet the European Union, yesterday, should have done it very differently indeed. The EU's Italian presidency, in a statement to mark the seventh year of the fatwa, appeared to reject calls for firmer action against Iran, preferring instead to pursue a "critical dialogue". The EU renews its demand that Iran abide by international law and calls upon the Iranian authorities to join the EU's efforts to obtain a satisfactory solution in respect of Salman Rushdie. The demand could not have been more vague, nor more mealy-mouthed.

Iran must declare the fatwa null and void: nothing less will do. In Mr Rushdie's own words, the crisis has to be brought to a formal signed and sealed conclusion". Iran is today a pariah state. The West must not permit it to lose its stigma by stealth or quick fix. Only by rescinding the fatwa can it re-enter the civilised fold.

## CHURCH FOR THE TIMES

Rock of Ages cleft for me, are you becoming too PC?

When Henry the Eighth brought the Church of England into existence to put a woman in her place he can never have imagined that her successors would one day be in charge. As we report on the front page today, a survey of the Synod shows that a majority of the House of Laity is now made up of women, and pretty progressive ones at that. This may not come as a surprise in the bishop's palace in Barchester, where Mrs Proudie has always worn the garters, but how many churchgoers will be entirely happy with a body originally built to embody eternal truth moving so modestly with the times?

Statistics in a survey can never give us a full picture of the established Church. Its real nature as rich and complex as the embroidery on the vestments of a Puseyite prebendary. But the figures on the page of this study tell us much about the figures who run the Church of England, and how much they have changed since Cosmo Cantuar.

The removal of the barrier from pew to pulpit for the female sex has gone hand in hand with a broader feminisation of the CofE. There have always been powerful women in the English church, from the mystic Julian of Norwich through its stalwart Protestant defender Elizabeth the First to the all-too-recognisable rectors' and bishops' wives drawn by the Trolloppe, Joanna and Anthony. But even Mrs Proudie at her most assertive might have shuddered at the thought of an inclusive liturgy which avoids references to God as Father, lesbian clergy.

administering the sacraments and the most prominent priest in popular culture being played by Dawn French.

The regiment of women may have been monstrous to a good Presbyterian like John Knox. It may be more in tune with the spirit of the age than the ageless design of the Holy Spirit. But the synod survey suggests that even those parts of the church which are male monopolies cannot be relied upon to uphold ancient wisdom. The House of Bishops, the only section of the synod still all-male, harbours two members who believe the church should not speak out on adultery. Do they think God got it wrong or are ten commandments too many?

Perhaps the Bishops' reluctance to take a tough line on sin stems from ignorance of its prevalence. No bishop admitted to taking a tabloid newspaper. Given how many of them, and their clergy, appear in *The News of the World*, it seems an unpardonable omission.

Elevated origins are no excuse. The proportion educated at public school or Oxbridge is in decline. Figures such as the formidable intellectual Old Etonian and Cambridge scientist John Habgood, lately Archbishop of York, will soon be as much an anachronism as the fox-hunting Parsons of Surtees. There is, however, a glimmer of hope that enlightenment will not elude the men in mitres. Their preferred paper is this one. Perhaps it is no bad thing to have a Church that has its roots in the past but today takes its cue from *The Times*.

From Mr Patrick Nicholls, MP for Teignbridge (Conservative)

Sir, Libby Purves ("Governing ambiguities", February 13) trots out the tired canard that ministers signed public interest immunity (PII) certificates that "could have led to the conviction" of the innocent. The truth is quite different.

PII do not prevent the trial judge seeing the documents; they simply reserve to him the ultimate decision about whether they are revealed or not.

That is exactly what happened in the Matrix Churchill trial and the defendants were duly acquitted. In short, the law operated as it was supposed to.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK NICHOLLS,  
House of Commons.  
February 13.

Business letters, page 29

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Fresh pursuit of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland

From Mr H. R. McIlveen

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg ("Isle of Dogs may be the IRA's Waterloo", February 12) stripped away much Irish mist when he reminded us that the IRA has lost its way.

In 25 years former "Stormont rule" anomalies and alleged injustices have been put right. The credit for this lies with Westminster. The peace process, which the Prime Minister and his Irish counterpart have made plain they will continue to pursue (reports and leading article, February 13), has the support of all factions in Ulster.

Cross-border relations with Dublin have improved steadily at pragmatic, if not always political levels. The timely visit of President Clinton in November inevitably added an international dimension to the search for progress and settlement.

The democratic process now envisaged must fully involve the Ulster people. The majority of silent and law-abiding citizens would, by means of elections, be able to return their chosen representatives in proportion to their mandate. With only a small vote, Sinn Fein is likely to move to the bottom of the table. That is democracy. It is probably the only one with whom the Government or the Unionists can discuss the way ahead. He can apparently make no promises on the future behaviour of the IRA. If he condemns violence he is finished with the IRA; if he doesn't he is probably finished with the Government and the Unionists.

The real problem for the British and Irish governments remains the IRA.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP BEAVER,  
The Malt House,  
Poulton, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.  
February 13.

From Mrs Deirdre Rowe

Sir, No one in Northern Ireland has been untouched by the violence: only the degree differs. Quite often in life it's the "average" voice that is least heard.

My family and I fall into this category. We are non-political Catholics, some of whom are still living in Andersonstown. In 1979 my father, on his sixtieth birthday, was murdered by the INLA for reporting a hijacked car.

For seventeen years we've been living in silence and grief, but there are many people like us. We don't want vengeance or justice; we just want peace. That means talks, *unconditional* peace.

I appeal to Mr Major to let the IRA keep their weapons till they rot; they're only symbolic and they can be replaced. The "four green fields" of the

such a state are dictated by the IRA. nor Sinn Fein, which is merely a weak political shell.

The IRA knows perfectly well that political victory for Sinn Fein, in elections in the North, South, or a united Ireland, is unlikely in the foreseeable future. After so many years of sustained violence few are likely to vote for them.

The IRA wants a united Ireland of its choice and will use Sinn Fein as its political engine, provided it can be relied upon to toe the line. As a former serving officer in Northern Ireland for 3½ years I believe the Docklands bombing was a deliberate reminder, not a blunder as Rees-Mogg says.

Gerry Adams, on the other hand, has changed. He seems to believe that a united Ireland is within sight and to understand that it can be achieved only with Unionist consent. Within a politically weak organisation he is probably the only one with whom the Government or the Unionists can discuss the way ahead. He can apparently make no promises on the future behaviour of the IRA. If he condemns violence he is finished with the IRA; if he doesn't he is probably finished with the Government and the Unionists.

The Unionists have steadfastly condemned the activities of the IRA and the so-called loyalist paramilitaries. They have agreed to talk to the men who have slaughtered so many members of their community, provided they promise not to do so in future.

Anyone who asks the Unionists to do more is asking them to surrender to the terrorists.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MUSTOE,  
Blackthorn Cottage, 20 Cross End,  
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire.  
February 13.

From Mr Lucas Mellinger

Sir, Sir David Mitchell, MP, asks (letter, February 12), "Do the IRA... ever want the peace process to move forward?" I would go further: "Can the IRA make peace?" The inevitable answer is that they cannot.

They cannot destroy their *raison d'être*, cannot, in their conscience, abandon their fathers' commitment; cannot, in their eyes, betray the martyrs who have died for the only cause they know.

Decommissioning their arms, in their psychology, would imply decommissioning their integrity.

Yours faithfully,  
LUCAS MELLINGER,  
Masons (solicitors),  
9 Mortlake Terrace,  
Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey.  
February 13.

## Balance of sexes in MPs' selection

From Mr Paul Nicholls

Sir, Now that the Labour Party has decided (rightly in my view) not to appeal against the industrial tribunal decision declaring all-women shortlists unlawful (report, January 9) there is a presumption that the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and Race Relations Act 1976 do apply to the selection process for political parties. This will remain the case unless there is a future selection challenge that results in an appeal to the higher courts.

Whilst there may be some disappointment at the loss of the "positive action" mechanism for redressing the balance of the sexes, the long-term implications of the application of discrimination legislation to candidate selection in all political parties gives ground for hope for future change. Libby Purves suggests that small businesses should pass the risk to the "poor old bank". The banks are responsible for far more liquidations than the likes of Michael Heseltine and myself. If it looks risky they pull the plug and down the small fry go unless they find a way of keeping other creditors waiting a little longer.

Nearly every small business runs into trouble at some time in its early years and has to choose either liquidation or to keep creditors waiting for payment. Which option should be chosen?

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL NICHOLLS,  
Dibb Lupton Broomhead (solicitors),  
Carlton House,  
18 Albert Square, Manchester 2.  
February 5.

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, The statement by the Swiss Bankers Association ("Swiss in clash over Holocaust assets", February 8) that the amount of cash in dormant accounts belonging to Holocaust victims is only £21 million surely merits further investigation.

Whilst I was in the Commons I was involved in some of the work of the Association of Nazi War Camp Survivors and of the Wiener Library. Although I have no knowledge of the overall sum involved, my impression of the scale and injustice of the tragic and deeply disturbing cases which came to my attention leads me to be

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN THOMPSON  
(Labour MP for Dunfermline  
Borough, 1959-64).  
11 Upper Gray Street,  
Edinburgh 9.  
February 8.

Beating the weather

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, During the recent severe weather the National Grid issued a warning (report, January 31; see also letters, February 9) that it might run out of generating capacity, caused in part by the fact that some gas-fired stations were closed through lack of fuel from British Gas because the contracts were interruptible at British Gas's option.

It seems irresponsible to include in "available capacity" plants that can be closed legitimately by an outside agency.

Power, communications and transport are three services that must never fail through lack of capacity, whatever the weather; otherwise the country faces a repeat of the three-day week chaos of 1972 with devastating economic consequences.

Yours truly,  
IAN MORROW,  
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1.  
February 8.

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Business letters, page 29

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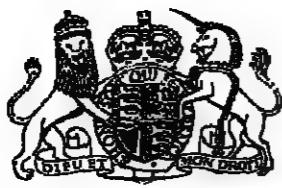
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## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
February 13: The Queen held an audience at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Mr Andrew Mackay MP (Vice-Chamberlain of the Household) was received in audience by Her Majesty and paid an Address from the House of Commons to which The Queen was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, and Honorary Life Fellow, this morning chaired a meeting of the Environment Committee of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce at Buckingham Palace.

The First Lord, Margaret, has succeeded Lord Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

February 13: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended a dinner to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the Oriental Restaurant, the Grosvenor Hotel, London W1.

February 13: The Prince Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, this morning attended an Advisory Committee meeting at a Community Centre, New Oxford Street, London WC1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon chaired an Industry and Commerce Group Meeting and afterwards presented Certificates of Merit to the Special Operations Executive in Westminster Abbey.

The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE  
February 13: The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited Royal Victoria Dock, London E18, following last Friday's terrorist incident.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited London Police Station to thank representatives of the police, fire and ambulance services.

The Prince of Wales later visited the temporary offices of Franklin Mint at the Tower Hotel.

His Royal Highness subsequently met with dealers and officers who have been treating and caring for victims at the London Hospital.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
February 13: The Princess of Wales, Patron, London City Ballet, this morning received Mr Michael Preston (Chief Executive) and Mr Harold King (Artistic Director).

February 13: The Duke of Gloucester, President, Royal Horticultural Society, opened the Chelsea Flower Show, and subsequently was present at a dinner at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1.

YORK HOUSE  
February 13: The Duke of Kent this morning visited the John Hampden Grammar School, Marlow Hill, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and also met Mr John Patterson (Her Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire).

His Royal Highness later visited Wyecombe Summit, Abingdon, Barn Hill, High Wycombe, and this afternoon opened Crook Hall, East Cowton, Germangrass Cross, Buckinghamshire. Captain Morris Barnett was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UNICEF, this morning visited Jafferau Village.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Village Primary Health Care Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and the First Referral Unit, Taluk Hospital, Wallajapet, Tamil Nadu, India.

CLARENCE HOUSE  
February 13: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Patron of the Special Forces Club, this afternoon unveiled a Memorial to the Special Operations Executive in Westminster Abbey.

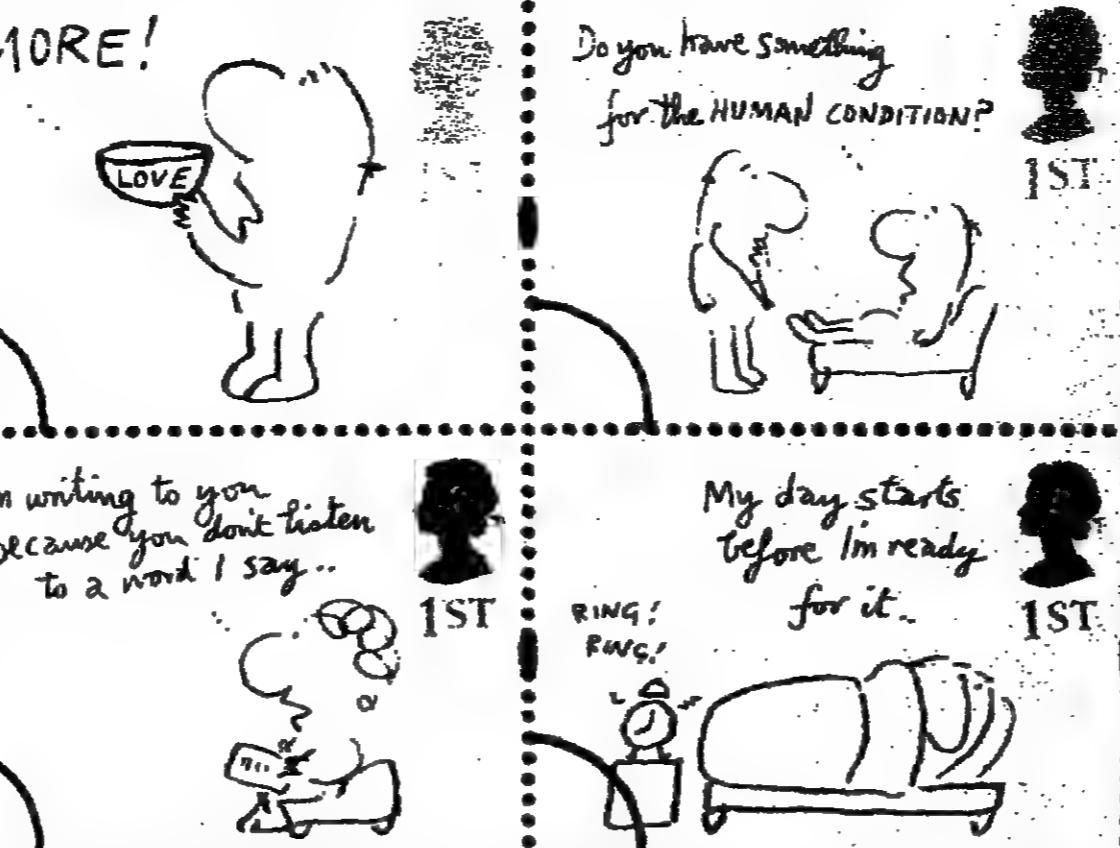
The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

WCI, at 2.00, as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club at 4.30, and will deliver the 1996 Barham Lecture at Toynbee Hall at 6.30.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit historic sites in Harwich, Essex.

The Duke of Kent, as patron, will attend the British Computer Society awards lectures at the Institution of Civil Engineers at 6.30.

Hundreds of entries were received for The Times Young Cartoonist of the Year



Four of Mel Calman's little masterpieces are among cartoons that will appear on stamps from February 26.

## Hundreds enter young cartoonist award

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE best entries for the Mel Calman Awards, a competition sponsored by *The Times* to encourage young cartoonists, are to go on show at the National Postal Museum from February 26.

They will be displayed in an exhibition coinciding with the launch of new greetings stamps featuring the work of renowned cartoonists, including the late Mel Calman, in whose honour the awards are named.

Calman's very fine drawings enlivened our front page for 15 years until his death in February 1994 at the age of 62. Typical examples of his work are on four of the ten first class stamps in the new issue. The stamps will be sold in books of ten with 20 free greetings labels; some of whose one-liner captions are also derived from Calman's cartoons.

Hundreds of entries were received for The Times Young Cartoonist of the Year

competition, organised in conjunction with the British Cartoonists' Association, for which the Mel Calman Awards are the prizes.

The competition was inspired by the realisation that cartoons and caricature have been an essential ingredient of British life for more than three centuries, but that there are now fewer and fewer outlets for cartoonists' work, and little encouragement for young artists to continue in what has been a great tradition.

Entries were restricted to those under 30, with a special category for those under 18.

Seven winners will be presented with their prizes by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, at an awards ceremony on the day the exhibition opens.

The judges, who included such leading exponents of the cartoonist's art as Peter Brookes of *The Times*, Peter Maddock, Posy Simmonds, Steve Bell

of *The Guardian*, John Jensen, chairman of the British Cartoonists' Association, and Euzzo Apicella, were impressed and encouraged by the strength and quality of the entries for the competition, which it is hoped will become an annual event.

One of the judges, David Driver, the design editor of *The Times*, said: "I have always feared that there were not a great number of cartoonists out there waiting to show what they could do, but the entries came in their hundreds and were of a very high standard. We have discovered several promising young talents."

The National Postal Museum is in King Edward Building, King Edward Street, London EC1, and is open daily from 9.30am until 4.30pm. Admission is free. The exhibition, which also includes a display on the new cartoon stamps, will continue until May 3.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.N. Drose

and Miss Cde P. Gauvain

The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of the late Mr W.H. Drose and Mrs A.E. Drose of Dusseldorf, Germany, and Claire, daughter of Colleen, Ade P. Gauvain, and Mrs Gauvain of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Mr S.M. Freedman

and Miss T. Barnes

The engagement is announced between Simon Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Linda Freedman, of Oakwood, London, and Trudi, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J. Barnes, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr D.G. Gifford

and Miss P.A. Gardner

The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Barry Gilbert, of Walsall, West Midlands, and Patricia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs George Gardner, of Kings Norton, Birmingham.

Mr C. Jones

and Miss L.A. Farmworth

The engagement is announced between Cyan, eldest son of Mr W.M. Jones, of Llantilio, Dyfed, and of Mr M.R. Jones, of Aberaeron, Dyfed, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George Gardner, of Kings Norton, Birmingham.

Mr D. L. Preston

and Dr R.L. Gicks

The engagement is announced between Sean, son of Dr and Mrs John Preston, of New Jersey, USA, and Rebecca, daughter of Dr William and Dr Susan Gicks, of Witney, Oxfordshire.

Mr D. R. Spratt

and Miss S.R. Nisbett

The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr Tim Scriven, of London, and Sheelin Rose, daughter of Mr David Nugent, of Wexford, Republic of Ireland, and Lady Eliza Mayes-Smith, of Chaddesley, Worcestershire.

Mr D. Surtees

and Miss E.M. Coyle-Camp

The engagement is announced between Gordon, son of Mr R. Ben Sorensen, QC, and Mrs Joyce Sorensen, of Ottawa, Canada, and Elizabeth, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Camp and Mrs Elizabeth McGlade Camp, of Ottawa, and Hemsworth.

Mr D. MacDonald

and Miss C. Morley-Fletcher

The engagement is announced between Dorian Stephen, son of Mrs Margaret Macdonald and the late Mr Douglas Macdonald, of East Grinstead, West Sussex, and Minnie, daughter of Mrs Susan Morley-Fletcher and the late Mr Charles Morley-Fletcher, of Cheltenham.

Mr J. Mills

and Miss R.E.A. Woods

The engagement is announced between John Mills and Rachael E. Woods, nee Farrant, both of Edinburgh.

Mr O. Osia

and Miss L.A. Guiness

The engagement is announced between Olly, only son of the late Monsieur Jeanne Coen, and of Madame Ege, of Megeve, France, and Lucy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Guiness, of London, and Norfolk.

Mr G.P. Pincock

and Miss P.A.P. Green

The engagement is announced between Paul Gavin, son of Mr and Mrs Roger Pincock, of Milton Malsor, Northamptonshire, and Petra Antonia Primrose, daughter of the Hon William and Mrs Grosvenor of Potsgrove, Woburn, Bedfordshire.

Mr A. Stewart

and Miss L.J. Dove

The marriage took place in Oakham on February 12, between Mr Andy Stewart and Mrs Lucy Dove.

MARRIAGES

Mr S.P. Marsh

and Miss J. Stephens

The marriage took place quietly at Club Caribbean, Jamacia, on January 31, of Simon Peter, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs Peter Marsh, of Barmby, Lancashire, and Frances Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Stephens, of Crosby, Liverpool.

Mr A. Stewart

and Miss L.J. Dove

The marriage took place in Oakham on February 12, between Mr Andy Stewart and Mrs Lucy Dove.

LATEST WILLS

Mrs Gabrielle Muriel Kellier, of Shackerley, Avon, the champion golfer, benefactor and collector of modern art, whose collection included work by artists such as Schiele, Bruegel, Dali, Delvaux, Dufy, Chagall, Ernst, Giacometti, Magritte, Miró, Picasso, Man Ray and Tanguy, left an estate valued at £2,228,400.

DEATHS: King Richard II, 1377-99, murdered at Pontefract Castle, 1400; John Hay, 1406, son of the second Earl of Sutherland; Sir Christopher St John, 1406, son of the 10th Baron of St John; Sir Richard, 1407, son of the 11th Baron; Sir John de la Pole, 1415, son of the 1st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1450, son of the 2nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1459, son of the 3rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1460, son of the 4th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1461, son of the 5th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1462, son of the 6th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1463, son of the 7th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1464, son of the 8th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1465, son of the 9th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1466, son of the 10th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1467, son of the 11th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1468, son of the 12th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1469, son of the 13th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1470, son of the 14th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1471, son of the 15th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1472, son of the 16th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1473, son of the 17th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1474, son of the 18th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1475, son of the 19th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1476, son of the 20th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1477, son of the 21st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1478, son of the 22nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1479, son of the 23rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1480, son of the 24th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1481, son of the 25th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1482, son of the 26th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1483, son of the 27th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1484, son of the 28th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1485, son of the 29th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1486, son of the 30th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1487, son of the 31st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1488, son of the 32nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1489, son of the 33rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1490, son of the 34th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1491, son of the 35th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1492, son of the 36th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1493, son of the 37th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1494, son of the 38th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1495, son of the 39th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1496, son of the 40th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1497, son of the 41st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1498, son of the 42nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1499, son of the 43rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1500, son of the 44th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1501, son of the 45th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1502, son of the 46th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1503, son of the 47th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1504, son of the 48th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1505, son of the 49th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1506, son of the 50th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1507, son of the 51st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1508, son of the 52nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1509, son of the 53rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1510, son of the 54th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1511, son of the 55th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1512, son of the 56th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1513, son of the 57th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1514, son of the 58th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1515, son of the 59th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1516, son of the 60th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1517, son of the 61st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1518, son of the 62nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1519, son of the 63rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1520, son of the 64th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1521, son of the 65th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1522, son of the 66th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1523, son of the 67th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1524, son of the 68th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1525, son of the 69th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1526, son of the 70th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1527, son of the 71st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1528, son of the 72nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1529, son of the 73rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1530, son of the 74th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1531, son of the 75th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1532, son of the 76th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1533, son of the 77th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1534, son of the 78th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1535, son of the 79th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1536, son of the 80th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1537, son of the 81st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1538, son of the 82nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1539, son of the 83rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1540, son of the 84th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1541, son of the 85th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1542, son of the 86th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1543, son of the 87th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1544, son of the 88th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1545, son of the 89th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1546, son of the 90th Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1547, son of the 91st Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1548, son of the 92nd Duke of Suffolk; Sir John de la Pole, 1549, son of the 93rd Duke of Suffolk; Sir

## OBITUARIES

## VICE-ADMIRAL SIR STEPHEN CARLILL

Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Carlill, KBE, CB, DSO, last British commander of the Indian Navy, died on February 9 aged 93. He was born on December 23, 1902.

**STEPHEN CARLILL** was the last British Chief of Naval Staff in India. His departure from Delhi on April 21, 1948, nearly 11 years after Indian independence, closed a significant chapter in the history of the two countries. He was the last British officer to command one of India's armed services, and his task had been to nurse the Indian Navy towards independence, not only in the matter of naval personnel but in developing institutions such as the fine modern training station at Cochin on the west coast of India.

But although it had fallen to Carlill to sever many of the links between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, he had aimed to stress the special comradeship which existed between the two navies. A sense of dependence was giving way, he hoped, to a spirit of friendly competition between two equals (although of course the Indian Navy was considerably the smaller of the two).

Carlill had been popular in India and he, in his farewell broadcast, said that he had "immensely enjoyed" his service there, during which he had invariably received the greatest co-operation from his colleagues and from the Indian Government. In the Royal Navy he had formerly had a distinguished career as a gunnery specialist and destroyer commander.

Stephen Hope Carlill was the son of Harold Frankman Carlill, a civil servant at the Board of Trade. There was no naval tradition in the family, but Carlill had always wanted to go to sea and went to the naval colleges Osborne and Dartmouth. He was a keen sportsman, and he played hockey, squash, cricket and tennis, as well as rugby for the Royal Navy in 1928.

He first went to sea in 1920, serving in home and Mediterranean waters. In 1927 he qualified as an interpreter in German. He studied the language in the Black Forest under Professor Willie Nohe, at the same time as Hugh



Gaiskell, with whom he became friends. The two went on a walking tour together, and Terence Rattigan later wrote a play about this unusual establishment, *French Without Tears* (Rattigan changed the language in order to avoid the wrath of Nohe).

Carlill met his future wife there, Nohe's daughter Hilda, whom he married in 1928.

Carlill specialised in gunnery. He was gunnery officer in the cruisers *Norfolk* in the Atlantic Fleet and *Dunedin* in New Zealand, and in the battle-cruiser *Hood*, from which he was promoted to commander in 1937.

For the next two years he was squadron gunnery officer in the *Gala*, flagship of the Mediterranean flotilla.

Shortly after war broke out, he joined the training and staff duties division at the Admiralty, but in April 1940 resumed sea service in command of the new Hunt class destroyer *Hambleton*. When she was damaged by a mine, he moved into a sister-ship, the *Farndale*, where in 1942 he was awarded the DSO. It was the *Farndale* which in December 1941 sank the Italian submarine *Ammiraglio Canevi* while she was on passage from Libya to Italy. Carlill took 53 prisoners before discovering that among these were a number of Italian senior military officers who had been trying to get home.

On promotion to captain in 1942 he was appointed to the new destroyer

*Quilliam* as captain of the 4th destroyer flotilla, seeing action in the Eastern Fleet and during the landings in Sicily and at Salerno, for which he was mentioned in despatches. From 1944 until the end of the war he served in the Gunnery Division of the Naval Staff as deputy director.

In 1946 he was appointed Chief of Staff to Admiral Lord Fraser, Commander-in-Chief, British Pacific Fleet, and continued with his successor, Admiral Sir Denis Boyd until 1948, subsequently commanding the gunnery school *HMS Excellent* and the carrier *Illustrious*. Following his promotion to rear-admiral in 1952, he was appointed to the directing staff of the Imperial Defence College, then to command of the Home Fleet Training Squadron, being promoted to vice-admiral in 1954.

From 1955 to 1958 Carlill was Chief of Naval Staff in India. His leave-taking in April from the New Delhi railway station was celebrated with suitable pomp. White uniformed naval personnel were there in strength, and Carlill and his wife were saluted by the assembled naval ratings, and by the new Chief of Staff, Vice-Admiral Katari with the words: "Admiral Carlill and Lady Carlill Ki Jai" (Victory to Admiral Carlill and Lady Carlill). They left Bombay on the liner *Strathmore*. A 15-gun salute was fired, aircraft flew past and officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy cheered.

In recognition of his exceptional work Carlill was made an honorary vice-admiral in the Indian Navy—the first British officer in modern times to hold an honorary flag rank in any service outside the Royal Navy. He retired in 1959, having been made a CB in 1954 and created KBE in 1957.

He worked until 1966 for the West Africa Committee, which guarded the interests of a group of businesses, first as their representative in Ghana and later in London. He then retired to Milford on Sea, where he grew roses and was surrounded by grandchildren and dogs, one of which he named Quilliam, after the ship he had commanded during the war.

His wife died in 1991, and he is survived by their two sons.

## GENERAL ADOLF GALLAND

Adolf Galland, German wartime fighter ace, died on February 9 aged 83. He was born on March 19, 1912.

A FLYER who was among Germany's top aces of the Second World War, Adolf Galland commanded the fighter arm of the Luftwaffe from the end of 1941 until 1945. Credited with 103 kills by Luftwaffe statisticians, he was a meticulous skill in the handling of fighter forces. He always attributed the Luftwaffe's defeat in the Battle of Britain to the fact that it was not properly deployed by Goering, who used his fighters as a strategic rather than as a tactical weapon.

Thus, the Messerschmitt Me109 was used as a bomber escort—a role for which its short range made it unsuitable—rather than being used to attack the RAF's fighters. The flawed German system of using *Luftflotten*, air fleets of mixed fighters and bombers, rather than organising them as separate commands told against them when they were concentrated against the numerically inferior but tactically superior RAF in the summer of 1940.



of Britain, making a name for himself along with Werner Mölders and Helmut Wick as one of the most successful pilots on the German side. In August he was appointed to lead a fighter group in the battles which raged in the skies over the Channel and the South East of England. In the following year he was involved in countering the RAF's daylight fighter sweeps over France.

Much of Galland's success as a fighter pilot was due to his never underestimating his op-

ponents: unlike Goering he did not make the mistake of disparaging the RAF's capacities at the outset of the Battle of Britain. Indeed, he is said jokingly to have told the latter when questioned as to Luftwaffe needs during the battle, that a squadron of Spitfires would benefit the performance of his *Gruppe*.

Mölders had been made Inspector of Fighters in 1941 but was killed in an air crash later that year and in November Galland was appointed to succeed him. In the following year he was promoted to become, at 30, the youngest general in the German armed forces.

For the next two years it was

his melancholy task to attempt to orchestrate an air defence for the Third Reich against the numerically and technically superior air forces of the Western Allies, and to witness the total destruction of his command under the relentless night and day onslaught mounted by the RAF and the US 8th Army Air Force. It was a tribute to his qualities as a leader that he was nevertheless continually able to inspire his pilots whose numbers daily dwindled, especially heavy toll being taken of their

attempts to break up the massive daylight raids of the American bomber squadrons with their powerful long-range fighter escorts.

Nevertheless he was always alert to make the latest technical advances available to his pilots and continually strove for tactical innovations which would offset the Luftwaffe's inferiority in numbers. Thus such novelties as rocket and even bomb attacks were experimented with, against the tightly packed American bomber formations.

Although rising to high command, he remained the mentality of, and sympathised with, the problems of the front line pilot with whom he was prone to side in the frequent arguments between the operational units and the Supreme Command. In particular, he was a severe critic of Hitler's initial decision to deploy the new Me262 jet fighter—which would have given the Luftwaffe a perhaps decisive air superiority over the Allies—only as a fighter bomber.

This stance made him enemies and in January 1945 he was relieved of his command when Goering ordered him on permanent leave without naming a successor. However, he did fly operationally again and was shot down in combat with an American Mustang fighter a fortnight before the end of the war.

After the war Galland pursued his interest in commercial and military aviation and was for a period a consultant and adviser to the Argentine Air Force.

Galland typified to a degree the chivalry which existed between combatants in the air and was a popular figure at the air force reunions of his old adversaries. He was, for example, a welcome figure at the thanksgiving service for the life of the fearless RAF ace Sir Douglas Bader, in St Clement Danes Church in the Strand, in 1982.

He was married with two children.

He died in 1991.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## FOR SALE

## OVERSEAS TRAVEL

## FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

## FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## USE WILL POWER TO CHEAT DEATH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE LOVE LETTERS OF GENERAL BOOTH

## A NOTABLE LIFE STORY

## KIDNEY

## RESEARCH FUND

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## RESEARCH





## VAT payable at time of supply

B. J. Rice & Associates (a Firm) v Commissioners of Customs and Excise

Before Lord Justice Strangton, Lord Justice Ward and Sir Ralph Gibson

Judgment February 7

Sections 4 and 5 of the Value Added Tax Act 1983 determined the amount of tax to be charged and the time when the charge took effect but whether a charge to tax had actually arisen was to be determined under section 2(1) of the Act.

Where, therefore, consultancy services were supplied by a firm before it registered for VAT but were only paid for after registration, no VAT was payable as the firm was not taxable under section 2(1) at the time the services were made.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing by a majority an appeal by the appellant, B. J. Rice & Associates, a tax consultancy business, against Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny who, on March 15, 1994, in the Queen's Bench Division, had upheld the London VAT Tribunal's decision on April 28, 1992 that services supplied before the appellant's registration for VAT but paid for after registration were fully taxable.

Section 2 of the 1983 Act provides:

"(1) Tax shall be charged on any supply of goods or services made in the United Kingdom, where it is a taxable supply made by a taxable person in the course or furtherance of any business carried on by him."

Section 4 provides:

"(1) The provisions of this section and section 5 below shall apply for determining the time when a supply of goods or services is to be treated as taking place for the purposes of the charge to tax ..

"(3) Subject to the provisions of section 5 below, a supply of services shall be treated as taking place at the time when the services are performed."

Section 5 provides:

"(1) The commissioners may by regulations make provision with respect to the time at which ... a supply is to be treated as taking place in cases where it is a supply ... which is determined or payable periodically, or from time to time, or at the end of any period."

Regulation 23 of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations (SI 1985 No 886), as substituted by the Value Added Tax (General) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1989 No 152), provides:

"(1) ... where services are supplied for a period for a consideration the whole or part of which is determined or payable periodically or from time to time, they shall be treated as occurring in point of time, when the appellant's bill was paid in March 1991. The alternative provided by regulation 23(b) was not applicable because

the appellant never did issue a tax invoice, and could not lawfully have done so while he was not registered for VAT.

At the time the bill was paid the appellant was registered; and that, the Customs and Excise said, fulfilled the requirement of section 2(1) that was a taxable person at the relevant time.

If that was the right interpretation of the Act, it produced an unjust result. Either the appellant would be unable to recover the tax from his customer, and would have to pay it out of his own pocket; or else the customer would have to pay it, and it was not charged against the bill at the time when both contracted for and received the services of the appellant.

Customs and Excise had argued that there was no injustice "because either a trader can and should foresee that he may cross the threshold and word his invoice accordingly, or he could and should require the customer to pay 25 per cent on top of the bill of £150 on the basis that late payment had brought the transaction into the VAT net."

His Lordship did not accept that either of those solutions was apt, in fact and in law, to avoid the injustice mentioned, even if 25 per cent was an error for some other figure.

That those who paid their bills late should suffer some penalty was wholly appropriate but his Lordship should not see why the penalty should (i) be determined by the prevailing rate of VAT, however long or short the delay, or (ii) accrue to the benefit of Customs and Excise rather than to the supplier and not when it was due to happen under section 5.

On his argument it was not necessary to disapply section 5 when goods that were formerly exempt ceased to be exempt; and it achieved nothing to disapply section 5 in the converse case, where goods that were previously not exempt had become exempt.

It had therefore to be acknowledged that the obscure provision in section 4 assumed that the question of whether goods or services were exempt would have to be decided at the time when a supply was deemed to take place under section 5, apart from the exception which section 4 made.

His Lordship would regard that as a special provision, derogating from section 2, and that in all other respects the existence of a chargeable transaction had to be determined at a time when the supply was actually made.

Common sense and justice pointed to that result; sections 4 and 5 remained to determine the amount to be charged and the time when the charge took effect. To impose a tax on the appellant in respect of a supply which was not taxable at the time when it was made seemed perilously close to retrospective taxation.

Lord Justice Ward gave a concurring judgment.

SIR RALPH GIBSON, dissenting, said that the appellant did not know when the work was done, but in March 1991 when the £150 was paid, "I thought that result by referring to regulation 23 of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations 1985, as amended. It was common ground that the work which the appellant did for the client came within the description provided by that regulation. Section 9(5) of the Act provided the vires for regulation 23."

Customs and Excise thus concluded that the supply was to be treated as occurring, in point of time, when the appellant's bill was paid in March 1991. The alternative provided by regulation 23(b) was not applicable because

it was not disputed that elements (i) and (ii) were fulfilled when the appellant did work for the client at some time before October 21, 1986, but element (iii) was not.

Customs and Excise said that the relevant date was not when the work was done, but in March 1991 when the £150 was paid. "I thought that result by referring to regulation 23 of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations 1985, as amended. It was common ground that the work which the appellant did for the client came within the description provided by that regulation. Section 9(5) of the Act provided the vires for regulation 23."

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## Counsel's final view on appeal chances can be expressed orally and not in writing

Lord Chancellor v Brennan

Judgment January 22

Where counsel who represented a legally aided defendant convicted or sentenced at the crown court orally expressed a final view at the conclusion of the case that an appeal would not succeed, he argued that a *Guide to Proceedings in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division* (HMSO) 1990, did not require him also to provide written advice to the same effect.

If, after giving his final view at the conclusion of the case, counsel subsequently rendered such written advice in the absence of a specific request by his client, his

claim for standard fees would, in the absence of special circumstances, normally be refused by a determining officer.

Miss Brennan, a barrister, represented a legally aided defendant aged 20 who had pleaded guilty in a crown court to burglar and was sentenced to 18 months' detention in a young offenders' institution. She immediately gave him oral advice that an appeal was unlikely to succeed and later that day she prepared a written advice to the same effect. She had not been provided by her instructing solicitor with any document in the form of Appendix 1 to the *Guide* as

provided by paragraph 1.2. A determining officer had to determine whether work was "reasonably done" having regard to the current edition of the *Guide* and not to those provisions of the *Code of Conduct* which were inconsistent with the *Guide*.

The procedures in paragraph 1.4 applied only in the circumstances covered by 1.3(b) and (c). If counsel expressed orally his "final view" at the conclusion of the case, then he should delete paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) on Appendix 1 and no further action was required of him.

Where counsel did not express

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The Commission find that the programme did not focus exclusively on this case and that the broadcasters had adequately prepared the Judge for the adversarial - even hostile - nature of the programme. The Commission find no unfairness to the Judge in these respects.

The Judge also complained that the showing of a video clip of the victim's response to the judgment, and the mother's presence in the studio audience, broke an agreement that no victim would be present.

The Commission find no unfairness in the use of a newsclip of the unidentified victim commenting on the day of the judgment.

However, the Commission consider that the broadcasters were unfair to the Judge in not warning him that the child's mother was, in effect, speaking for her when she addressed the Judge to apologise to her daughter. Her participation broke the spirit of the understanding between the Judge and the broadcasters and in this one respect the Commission find unfairness.

"Within 14 days counsel sends to solicitors (a) an advice on appeal and (b) where appropriate, signed grounds of appeal."

Mr Solomons submitted that whereas the 1983 version made it clear that a written advice was always required within 21 days, the new version made it clear that no such written advice was required if paragraph 1.3(a) of the *Guide* applied.

Unfortunately Annex H had not been amended, as it should have been, to take into account the changes to the *Guide*. The *Guide* did not require any written advice if counsel expressed orally his final view at the conclusion of the case. Furthermore the period of 21 days had been replaced with a period of 14 days.

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EuroDrive TRAVEL CLUB

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This is why *The Times* offers you the chance to take your partner to this city of lovers.

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